

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004742/25
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(1 December 2025)**

Subject: Skyrocketing prices of basic goods and the need for a single European response

EU citizens are being hit hard by inflation and the rising price of food, energy and basic consumer goods. Everyday life is taking its toll, especially for the most vulnerable households, and social inequality is deepening. The crisis has dimensions that individual countries cannot address alone.

1. What is the Commission's strategy to address the high cost of living at European level, especially in the areas of food and energy?
2. Are new measures envisioned to support citizens and small businesses in the face of the rising cost of living?

Submitted: 1.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(26 February 2026)**

The Commission follows price developments very closely and has, over the past few years, consistently set out measures to support households, in coordination with Member States.

Consumer prices have risen significantly across most developed jurisdictions, inside and outside of the EU, due to supply chain disruptions during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the EU, Russia's unjustified and illegal invasion of Ukraine caused a temporary spike in energy prices. Since then, inflation has moderated.

To address these developments, the EU has followed a three-legged approach.

First, providing for temporary support, notably during the spike in energy prices. For instance, since 2023, the Commission has coordinated with Member States to introduce temporary measures to reduce energy bills for households.

Second, introducing structural measures to bring down prices sustainably. For instance, since May 2022, REPowerEU ⁽¹⁾ has promoted energy savings, supply diversification and cheaper energy sources.

More recent examples are the Affordable Energy Action Plan ⁽²⁾ (February 2025), the European Affordable Housing Plan ⁽³⁾ (December 2025) or the Common Agricultural Policy simplification and competitiveness package ⁽⁴⁾ (May 2025).

And third, promoting social dialogue and wage developments in line with productivity, including under the European Semester. This is helping to recover the purchasing power of households. Lower earners have generally seen the largest relative wage increases.

The Commission will continue to pay close attention to this matter, including in the context of its competitiveness and simplification agenda, and in the upcoming EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/energy/repower.eu_en.

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/action-plan-affordable-energy-unlocking-true-value-our-energy-union-secure-affordable-efficient-and_en.

⁽³⁾ https://housing.ec.europa.eu/european-affordable-housing-plan_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/18/council-signs-off-simplification-of-common-agricultural-policy/>.