

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005007/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(18 December 2025)**

Subject: Increase of fuel prices in 2026: impact of EU legislation on households' purchasing power

Directive (EU) 2023/1791 on energy efficiency requires Member States to achieve energy savings targets that, from 2026, will have reached 1.5% of final energy consumption ⁽¹⁾. The targets can be met through obligation schemes for energy suppliers ⁽²⁾.

In France, those obligations are applied by the energy savings certificate scheme. The French Court of Auditors states that the system is governed by Article 8 of Directive (EU) 2023/1791 and that its cost — to the tune of several billion euro per year — is fully passed on to households through energy and fuel prices ⁽³⁾. The obligations have been further reinforced by French Decree No 2025-1048 ⁽⁴⁾, which establishes the obligations for the 2026-2030 period of the scheme. As a result, the price of fuel would increase by an estimated four to six cents per litre.

1. Does the Commission recognise that energy savings obligations can lead to higher pump prices for consumers?
2. Has it assessed the social and territorial effects of those obligations?
3. How does it intend to ensure that the application of Directive (EU) 2023/1791 does not adversely affect citizens' purchasing power, while ensuring that energy efficiency targets do not lead to disproportionate costs for motorists?

Submitted: 18.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 April 2026)**

The impact assessment accompanying the Commission 'Fit for 55' package of legislative proposals showed that, in the absence of mitigating measures, some policies may have distributional effects, particularly on vulnerable households.

The impact assessment accompanying the proposal for the recast Energy Efficiency Directive ⁽¹⁾ highlighted that energy efficiency measures generally deliver net benefits to households.

To ensure that vulnerable households benefit through targeted measures, Directive (EU) 2023/1791 ⁽²⁾ requires Member States to prioritise energy efficiency measures for them, including as part of the energy efficiency obligation schemes, to avoid disproportionate impacts from other measures and to address energy poverty holistically.

When it comes to the concrete design of energy efficiency measures and the design of the obligation schemes and the impacts for their citizens, Member States are responsible.

The Commission continues monitoring the implementation and supporting Member States, including best practices on cost-effective and socially fair energy efficiency measures.

To complement efforts towards energy affordability for all, the Commission presented the Affordable Energy Action Plan ⁽³⁾ to reduce energy costs for citizens and businesses across the EU and adopted a Citizens Energy Package with a particular focus on bringing energy bills down, for example through renewable energy self-production and sharing.

¹ Article 8 of Directive (EU) 2023/1791.

² Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2023/1791.

³ https://www.ccomptes.fr/sites/default/files/2024-09/20240917-Certificats-economie-energie_0.pdf.

⁴ https://www.ccomptes.fr/sites/default/files/2024-09/20240917-Certificats-economie-energie_0.pdf.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0623>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/1791/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0079&qid=1741780110418>.