

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001443/26
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(9 April 2026)**

Subject: Increase cohesion funds for households and businesses

The continuation of the war in the Middle East is causing oil, gas and electricity prices to skyrocket. Day after day, these prices are taking a toll on households and businesses — particularly in Greece and the other southern European countries — owing to the failure to complete the electricity interconnection. As a result, they are facing objective difficulties, as most of their disposable income goes towards energy costs.

With this in mind, and in view of the prolonged conflict in the Middle East, can the Commission say:

1. Will it provide additional cohesion fund grants to small and medium-sized enterprises, which have been hit hard by high electricity costs?
2. Will it take immediate financial measures to support households, which are facing an unreasonable burden?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)**

The Commission prioritises tackling high energy costs. The Member States select specific projects in line with the shared management rules.

The Commission incentivised the Member States under the mid-term review of the cohesion policy funds⁽¹⁾ to invest more into connectivity, competitiveness as well as affordable and sustainable housing, offering greater flexibility and incentives such as increased pre-financing, higher maximum co-financing rates or extended decommitment and eligibility periods.

The AccelerateEU⁽²⁾ communication addresses EU's rising energy costs on volatile fossil fuel markets and aims to accelerate the clean energy transition and strengthen energy resilience. Its core objectives are to provide immediate relief to consumers and businesses to reduce the EU's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

For households facing high energy costs, immediate financial support should be targeted, temporary and fiscally sustainable, focusing on vulnerable consumers and those most exposed to energy poverty.

Primary responsibility for such support lies with Member States, while EU-level initiatives such as the Affordable Energy Action Plan⁽³⁾, the Citizens Energy Package⁽⁴⁾ and AccelerateEU⁽⁵⁾ support complementary measures to lower energy costs, empower consumers and reduce exposure to volatile fossil fuel prices.

Among the immediate actions under the communication⁽⁶⁾, the Commission will draft a dedicated investment chapter to support and enable Member States to make full use of available EU funding and, where feasible, reallocate EU funds towards energy-related investments with the potential to alleviate the effects of rising energy prices.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/how/programming-and-implementation/mid-term-review_en.

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/accelerateeu-strengthen-eu-energy-resilience_en.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/action-plan-affordable-energy-unlocking-true-value-our-energy-union-secure-affordable-efficient-and_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-citizens-energy-package_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Please see footnote 2.

⁽⁶⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7fac9eea-5717-4182-a368-bd68c427ff4c_en?filename=Communication.pdf.