

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001724/26
to the Commission
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(28 April 2026)**

Subject: Rising energy poverty among islanders

As many as 19% of Greeks cannot keep their homes warm. For islanders the situation is even more difficult.

Islands' connection to the mainland electricity grid has shown that utility calculation methods remain unchanged and consumers are faced with the same charges.

Profits end up in the coffers of corporate groups while the people are left to foot the bill.

The Nea Dimokratia Government claims that energy communities are combatting energy poverty. This is contradicted not only by the price increases of the past five years but also by the new round of extortionate hikes in energy and fuel prices resulting from the imperialistic attack by the US and Israel against the Middle East, with the involvement and support of the Greek Government and the EU.

The aim of the four billion euro Islands Decarbonisation Fund is to secure bonuses for corporate groups operating in the field of RES, energy interconnections and storage. The phasing out of lignite is having a similar impact.

Where does the Commission stand on the following:

1. the fact that Greece is leading the way in implementing the EU's 'green' electricity production plan, with sky-high prices for energy from RES, importing costly natural gas from America and blocking much cheaper Russian gas with sanctions while the Greek people are among the most energy poor, with island residents bearing the brunt as a result of the so-called Decarbonisation Fund?
2. the fact that, wherever the lignite phase-out and the electricity interconnection of islands has been promoted, utility tariffs and surcharges have not been reduced, but instead the people continue to face additional charges?

Submitted: 28.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(17 June 2026)**

The clean energy transition is vital for Europe's strategic autonomy and prosperity. Renewables, storage, interconnections and energy efficiency are essential to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, lower exposure to volatile prices and strengthen security of supply. Greek islands have historically relied on costly oil-fired electricity generation.

The Islands Decarbonisation Fund contributes to decarbonisation of the islands' electricity supply, while interconnections aim to reduce fossil-fuel dependence, improve security of supply and lower costs.

The Commission recognises that consumers should benefit from the transition. Energy poverty remains a persistent challenge for Greece with 19% ⁽¹⁾ of Greeks unable to keep their home adequately warm in 2024.

Through the European Just Transition Fund, Greece benefits of EUR 1.37 billion to support the phase-out of the fossil fuels in the most vulnerable regions and islands ⁽²⁾.

The Social Climate Fund ⁽³⁾ will support the most vulnerable, including energy poor households in the island regions. The EU strategy for Islands and Communication for coastal communities will further address energy transition challenges on these territories ⁽⁴⁾.

Retail prices, network tariffs, public service obligation charges and social tariffs are primarily determined at national level, subject to EU energy market rules and regulatory oversight.

The Commission will continue to monitor implementation of EU energy legislation and EU-funded measures in Greece, including as regards affordability, energy poverty, consumer protection and proper use of Union funds.

⁽¹⁾ Compared with an EU average of 9.2%. Eurostat; source datasheet: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ILC_MDES01__custom_19825594/default/table.

⁽²⁾ Regions of Western Macedonia and Megalopolis and adjacent municipalities, and the islands of North-South Aegean and Crete.

⁽³⁾ The Social Climate Fund amounts to EUR 86.7 billion between 2026-2032: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02023R0955-20240630>.

⁽⁴⁾ The Commission will publish the EU strategy on islands and Communication on resilient prosperous and liveable coastal communities in June 2026.

Decarbonisation and the lignite phase-out must go hand in hand with social fairness, especially for vulnerable households and island residents.
