

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001827/26
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (PFE)
(5 May 2026)**

Subject: Extension of derogations from the stability pact to energy investments and energy cost disparities in the EU

Lasting energy cost disparities among the Member States continue to seriously hamper the industrial competitiveness of a number of Member States, upsetting the balance between the internal market and the principle of economic cohesion. In particular, some economies appear to be exposed to structurally higher burdens that undermine productive capacity, investment and employment.

Against the current backdrop of the energy transition and geopolitical instability, extraordinary and coordinated instruments at EU level need to be adopted increasingly urgently. This is where the proposal put forward by the Minister for the Economy, Giancarlo Giorgetti, comes into play; at the Eurogroup meeting, he argued in favour of extending the derogations from the stability pact — already provided for in strategic sectors such as defence — to the energy sector.

In the light of the above:

Will the Commission, with a view to recognising their strategic role in EU security and competitiveness, consider extending the stability pact's flexibility clauses to investments in the energy sector?

Submitted: 5.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(31 July 2026)**

The Commission recognises that Member States might face significant upfront fiscal costs in order to accelerate the implementation of measures that ensure Europe's long-term energy security.

The Commission has been stressing that, in responding to the surge in energy prices recorded after the outbreak of the conflict in the Middle East, it is essential to heed the lessons from the past energy crisis, when Member States incurred large fiscal costs by providing mostly untargeted support, and often distorting the price signals which are important to reduce demand of fossil fuels. It is also crucial to protect the credibility of the EU fiscal framework, which works as a guarantor of public finance sustainability.

Against this background, on 3 June 2026, the Commission announced that measures that strengthen the structural resilience of the European energy system and accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels may benefit from the existing flexibility within the fiscal framework. ⁽¹⁾

Upon request by the Member States, the scope of the current national escape clause for defence could be broadened to accommodate the measures undertaken since the outbreak of the conflict in the Middle East to reduce the dependence on imported fossil fuels and thereby contribute to Europe's security and defence.

The flexibility allowed for measures aimed at reducing dependency on fossil fuels would be capped at 0.3% per year with a cumulative maximum of 0.6% of gross domestic product until 2028. Existing fiscal sustainability safeguards remain fully in place.

⁽¹⁾ https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/document/download/3d82055c-c275-478d-a139-ef39d2dee571_en?filename=COM_2026_200_1_EN_ACT_part1_v5.pdf.