



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.7.2016  
C(2016) 4487 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial end-users {COM (2015) 496 final}. The Commission appreciates the Camera dei Deputati's support for the objectives of this proposal which is crucial for ensuring the quality of statistics in the context of transparency of natural gas and electricity prices in the Union.*

*The proposal aims to provide European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices following the statistical principles set out in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics that establishes a legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics. It also aims at establishing the reporting/communication of the data to the different stakeholders and to the European Parliament and the Council.*

*To this end, the proposal sets out the rules governing the way the statistical data relevant for the natural gas and electricity prices are provided. These rules relate to the compilation, quality monitoring and release of the European statistics.*

*The Commission takes note of the concerns raised by the Camera dei Deputati relating to the administrative and technical burden that the collection of data envisaged by the proposal could entail. The statistical principle on 'cost effectiveness' as set out in the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 will be followed. It means that the costs of producing statistics must be in proportion to the importance of the results and the benefits sought, that resources must be optimally used and the response burden minimised.*

*The Commission would also like to underline that the threshold exempting Member States from the obligation to provide data on natural gas prices for household customers has been proposed following the principle of 'cost effectiveness' to minimise reporting burden.*

*Ms Laura BOLDRINI  
President of the Camera dei Deputati  
Piazza Montecitorio  
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*The Commission had extensive consultations with Member States in the preparation of the proposal in order to ensure that there is a shared understanding of the objectives, that these objectives can be achieved and that they comply with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The methodology as set out in the Annexes of the Proposal, including the level of detail required for components and sub-components, have been thoroughly discussed at the technical level with the experts in Member States to satisfy needs for the data while at the same time guaranteeing technical comparability and feasibility.*

*To date, Directive 2008/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council has provided a common framework for producing, transmitting and disseminating comparable statistics on the natural gas and electricity retail prices charged to industrial customers in the Union. National authorities collect price data for household customers on the basis of a voluntary agreement. In order to guarantee the reporting of high quality price data for the household sector and for the non-household sector without a substantial change in the methodology, the Commission's proposal continues to apply the principles of the methodology currently used.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen  
Member of the Commission*