

Question for written answer E-003014/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

Hanna Gedin (The Left), Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left)

Subject: Several Swedish municipalities and regions are missing out on millions of kronor in electricity subsidies because they are being classified as farms

In response to the soaring electricity prices in recent years, the Swedish Government has decided that regions and municipalities, among others, should receive financial compensation in the shape of electricity subsidies.¹ Three municipalities and five regions, however, are missing out on a total of SEK 125 million in government electricity subsidies because the Swedish Tax Agency takes the view that the municipalities concerned should be classified as farms. Its assessment is based on the fact that if a municipality has an agricultural college, for example, and therefore owns a number of cows, it should be classified as a farm. The Swedish Government maintains that it is complying with EU state aid rules² and that the Swedish Tax Agency's decision is therefore valid. As a result, the municipalities of Sala, Örebro and Falkenberg, for example, along with several regions, are not receiving many of the millions in subsidies that they have applied for.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission agree that under the EU's state aid rules, municipalities that own cows cannot benefit from government subsidies for electricity?
2. What steps is the Commission going to take to ensure that EU regulations do not turn municipalities and regions into farms?
3. What steps is the Commission going to take to ensure that the energy crisis and soaring electricity prices do not adversely affect the Member States and their citizens in the future?

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¹ <https://www.kef.se/tidningen-kommunal-ekonomi/kommuner-missar-elstod>

² https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-och-lagar/dokument/svar-pa-skriftlig-fraga/uteblivet-elstod-till-falkenbergs-kommun_hb12226/