

# GILES CHICHESTER MEP

for the South West and Gibraltar

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## PRESS RELEASE

3 February 2009

### **EU CONSUMERS HAVE A RIGHT TO FAIR ENERGY BILLS**

*Commission to investigate poor service in the energy supply sector*

British consumers' energy bills could be lowered by a European Commission investigation into potential failures of market forces, said Conservative Energy Spokesman, Giles Chichester MEP.

The European Commission has published its Consumer Markets scoreboard report, which shows that three service areas across the EU are providing consumers with poor value. These are banking, urban transport and energy. The commission has decided to focus its attention this year on energy. It will fully investigate why price rises are so high and whether unfair commercial practices, billing or a reluctance to switch suppliers are exacerbating already crippling energy prices.

**South West Conservative MEP, Giles Chichester, said**

**“British consumers have had to stomach some pretty hefty increases in gas and electricity prices in 2008. They can be forgiven for feeling frustrated at the size and speed of price rises and the slowness and smallness of reductions which seem to come long after we hear of wholesale market price falls.**

**The European Commission is right to be looking closely at energy sector competition in UK. The main benefit of liberalised markets should be that prices are lower than they would otherwise be under state owned monopoly management. This is why I and my colleagues are working hard on the Third Energy Package to ensure full liberalisation across Europe.**

**It doesn't help the cause if the UK is believed to be distorting competition when we are supposed to be setting the best example in the EU.**

**We British consumers deserve and demand better value for our money.”**

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*Conservatives in the European Parliament*