

**Question for written answer E-003964/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
João Oliveira (The Left)

Subject: Setting of fuel prices and measures to curb their rise

Consumers are frequently faced with sharp and rapid rises in the prices of (Brent) crude oil products, followed by slow and protracted falls. These rises are generally attributed to problems with the physical availability of Brent. However, even in the absence of physical supply issues, the international prices rise straight away.

Among the various factors influencing the final price of fuels, the international price of refined products is the determining factor.

This price is set within a select group of stakeholders in the oil market, via ‘MOC’ (Market-on-Close) orders placed via eWindow. Both tools belong to S&P Global Energy, also known as Platts, whose analysts issue the ‘daily prices’, generally causing instantaneous and artificial increases in refining margins and the corresponding profits.

The select group of and powerful participants in this financialised market act with a single aim in mind: speculative profit-maximisation.

This situation, long recognised and denounced by the PCP, is particularly serious at this juncture.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Whether it recognises the impact of this mechanism – managed by large multinationals in the oil and financial sectors – on the setting of fuel prices?
2. Whether it will intervene to rectify this situation, safeguarding people’s livelihoods and the economies of the Member States, including through regulatory mechanisms grounded in the public interest and the fight against speculation?

Submitted: 30.9.2026