

**Question for written answer E-004044/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Oil companies' EUR 81 billion in crisis profits – EU surplus tax to counter high energy costs

Since the start of the Iran war, oil and fuel prices in the EU have spiked. While many consumers fear they will no longer be able to afford to put fuel in their cars and heat their homes, oil companies are artificially pushing prices up even higher. Eight oil companies have recently made profits of around EUR 81 billion in a quarter – almost twice as much as before the start of the war.

Six Member States, including Germany, are therefore calling for an EU-wide excess profit tax for oil companies. The Commission, meanwhile, refers to national solutions, despite the existence of a precedent: the solidarity contribution under Regulation (EU) 2022/1854.

1. What lessons can be drawn from the success of the solidarity contribution, which, according to the Commission's report, brought in more than EUR 26 billion, the bulk of which was used to alleviate the burden on energy consumers?
2. To what extent can Article 122 TFEU serve as a legal basis for an EU solidarity contribution?
3. Under what specific conditions would the Commission resubmit a proposal for joint EU-wide taxation of oil companies' crisis-related excess profits?

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