

**Priority question for written answer P-001791/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)

Subject: Scope for reducing excise duties based on EU law

According to Directive 2003/96/EC on energy taxation, Member States are required to apply minimum excise duty rates on fuels, while keeping open the possibility of setting higher rates.

Fuel prices in Greece are among the highest in the EU, despite citizens' lower disposable income. The Greek Government elects to keep taxes at very high levels, passing on the cost to workers, professionals and families, often laying the blame on European rules.

Given that EU legislation sets minimum but not maximum taxation limits, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it confirm that Member States, including Greece, have the possibility to reduce excise duties on fuels down to the minimum levels provided for by EU law?
2. Is there any EU limitation preventing a government from substantially reducing VAT and excise duties for the benefit of citizens?
3. What view does it take of high fuel taxation being retained in lower-income Member States, when this leads to increased social and economic pressures?

Submitted: 1.5.2026