

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002024/25
to the Commission
Bart Groothuis (Renew)
(21 May 2025)**

Subject: EU's military fuel infrastructure

With the rise in geopolitical tensions and European armed forces' clear dependence on civilian fuel systems, the shrinking capacity to store and refine fossil fuels in Europe could threaten military readiness. This problem is made worse by the lack of a clear strategy, contingency planning, regulatory barriers that restrict the modernisation of infrastructure, and limited coordination between the civilian and military sectors. Following a report by The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), ⁽¹⁾ there are doubts regarding how Mr Kubitius, the Commissioner for Defence and Space, plans to align an increasingly electrified civilian infrastructure with military fuel needs in order to ensure military readiness.

1. Does the Commission agree with the findings of the HCSS report and support its recommendations?
2. Has NATO ever asked the Commission to develop a liquid fuels strategy and, if so, when can we expect the Commission to present such a strategy?
3. Has NATO asked the Commission to improve its military fuel infrastructure and, if so, what concrete steps did the Commission take to meet these demands?

Submitted: 21.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubitius on behalf of the European Commission
(8 August 2025)**

The Commission took note of the findings of The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies' study on Securing European Military Fuels ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is aware that the long-term timely and sufficient supply of liquid fuels from the EU market is crucial for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The strategic nature of fuel and fuel infrastructure was already acknowledged and identified by the action plan on Military Mobility of 10 November 2022 ⁽²⁾.

The White paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 of 19 March 2025 ⁽³⁾ further proposed to identify immediate and future energy supply bottlenecks together with relevant partners, in particular NATO.

Exchanges have already taken place between NATO, the European External Action Service and the Commission staffs to identify how the civil sector and the military could work better together on energy, and in particular fuel supply.

In addition, military/civil fuel infrastructure and fuel supply, including of liquid fuels is addressed in the EU-NATO Structured Dialogues on Military Mobility and on Climate and Defence.

The Commission is currently working on a military mobility package to be presented by 1 December 2025. It will consist of a joint communication, a proposal for a regulation and targeted amendments of existing EU legislation.

On 12 June 2025, a targeted stakeholder consultation was launched. Stakeholders can contribute by providing their input. The findings of the study by the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies will be a valuable source when it comes to fuel supply.

¹ <https://hcss.nl/report/securing-european-military-fuels-in-a-tense-security-environment-supply-distribution-and-storage/>.
⁽¹⁾ <https://hcss.nl/report/securing-european-military-fuels-in-a-tense-security-environment-supply-distribution-and-storage/>.
⁽²⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/action-plan-military-mobility-20_en.
⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0120>.