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E-002695/2025

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.11.2025)

1. The Commission, in coordination with EU Member States and the European External Action Service (EEAS), has acted to address the situation in the Strait of Hormuz. EU Naval Force Operation ASPIDES, launched in February 2024 to protect commercial shipping and freedom of navigation, covers the Strait of Hormuz. ASPIDES has assumed all tasks of the previous European Maritime Awareness in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH) Operation AGENOR but has not yet deployed there due to limited assets. To improve maritime awareness, ASPIDES has gained access to surveillance systems hosted by the European Maritime Safety Agency. Coordination continues at the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization on passage rights under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Commission also supports the shipping industry through updated security guidance and preparedness of EU ports and corridors for rerouted traffic.

2. Building on lessons from the 2022 crisis, the Commission continues to coordinate demand aggregation and facilitate contacts with international gas suppliers to replace missing volumes. The prolonged Gas Storage Regulation entered into force on 11 September 2025, requiring Member States to reach 90% gas storage annually, with flexibility depending on market conditions. The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSO-G)'s Winter Supply Outlook of 9 October 2025 confirmed the vital role of storage and the resilience of EU infrastructure to meet demand under severe conditions.

3. While the Commission does not provide direct financial or insurance compensation to individual operators, it supports the sector through horizontal EU instruments and actions that provide protection and facilitate coordinated response.