

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004895/25
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(10 December 2025)**

Subject: Closure of Serbia's only refinery

The US has rejected the request by Serbian oil company NIS for a special import licence for raw materials, due to sanctions relating to the majority shareholding of Gazprom Neft. Therefore, there is only enough fuel to last until the end of January.

The Commission is asked:

1. Can it propose any measures for Serbia — a candidate country — to address fuel shortages?
2. Have alternatives been suggested to the Serbian Government to safeguard the country's energy security and, if so, what are they?

Submitted: 10.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(17 February 2026)**

The Commission is in regular contact with the Serbian authorities in the context of the EU-Serbia Working Group on Energy, which was established in October 2025.

The Commission also invited Serbia to participate in an ad hoc Oil Coordination Group meeting on 4 November 2025 specifically called to address the situation and ensure efficient coordination amongst Member States in case of fuel shortages in Serbia.

Should Serbia ask for further support in ensuring security of fuel supply, the Commission stands ready to re-convene the Oil Coordination Group.

According to public statements by Serbian government representatives ⁽¹⁾, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control issued another waiver on 23 January 2026, granting the company NIS a temporary operating licence until 20 February 2026.

The EU is actively supporting the Western Balkans partners, including Serbia, to decrease their dependence on fossil fuels and to diversify routes of supply, especially diminishing the dependence from Russia, in order to integrate their energy network integration and to access energy from multiple sources.

The EU has so far provided over EUR 1 billion of financial assistance to Serbia's energy sector. This includes the provision of a EUR 49.6 million grant to finance the construction of the Serbia-Bulgaria gas interconnector, which has opened Serbia's gas market for non-Russian gas sources.

The Commission is also financing preparatory studies for a new gas interconnector with North Macedonia, for which technical assistance has been provided.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/266629/nis-licence-extension-preserves-serbias-energy-stability>.