

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001062/26
to the Commission
Carmen Crespo Díaz (PPE)
(13 March 2026)**

Subject: Fuel costs and the impact of geopolitical instability on the primary sector

European farmers and fishermen are facing a sharp increase in production costs as a result, primarily, of rising fuel prices. The current geopolitical instability, particularly in the Middle East, is making oil and diesel prices highly volatile, which has a direct impact on the primary sector.

In some cases, such as in Spain, the price of red diesel has risen 40% in a matter of days, pushing costs up significantly for farmers and fishermen. As fuel is one of farms' and fisheries' main operating costs, this state of affairs undermines their viability and may have repercussions for food prices and security.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Will the Commission authorise the use of the temporary crisis and transition framework to enable Member States to support fishing fleets affected by the steep escalation in fuel prices?
2. Will it activate further financial instruments, outside the framework of the common agricultural policy, to address the uptick in energy costs caused by the current geopolitical instability?
3. Has the Spanish Government requested that any of those support measures be activated?

Submitted: 13.3.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2026)**

The Commission acknowledges the significant pressure that some economic sectors face due to increased energy and fertiliser prices, exacerbated by ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

The conflict in the region has constrained global supply chains, underscoring the critical need to bolster the EU's strategic resilience. In line with the Fertiliser Action Plan ⁽¹⁾, the Commission proposed to mobilise the EU budget to increase the agricultural reserve to provide fast relief for farmers and will present a new liquidity scheme to help with cash flow.

Concerning state aid, the Commission has adopted on 29 April 2026 a temporary framework for state aid to support the most exposed sectors including the primary production of agricultural and fisheries products and aquaculture ⁽²⁾.

Member States may use the new Temporary Crisis Framework, in addition to the standard state aid rules applicable to the agricultural and fishery sectors, to support them.

In this sense, the Commission has already approved three Spanish state aid measures ⁽³⁾ under the new Temporary Crisis Framework to compensate the primary producers of agricultural and fishery products for the increase of the prices of fertilisers and fuel provoked by the Middle East crisis.

The Commission triggered the crisis support mechanism of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) Regulation on 16 April 2026 making support available to operators in the fisheries and aquaculture sector ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission remains fully committed to continuously assessing the situation and will explore whether additional support mechanisms are needed for these sectors in the short term.

Regarding the measures requested by the Spanish Government, the Commission cannot comment about open state aid procedures.

⁽¹⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/agri-food-supply-chain/ensuring-availability-and-affordability-fertilisers_en.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_894.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decisions C(2026) 3728 of 28.5.2026 in case SA.122723 (2026/N), C(2026) 3755 of 2.6.2026 in case SA.122724 (2026/N) and C(2026) 3899 of 4.6.2026 in case SA.122726 (2026/N).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/889 of 16 April 2026 establishing the situation in the Middle East as of 28 February 2026 as the occurrence of an exceptional event causing a significant disruption of markets (OJ L 2026/889, 16.4.2026): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/889/oj.