

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001078/26
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(16 March 2026)**

Subject: Fuel prices

The escalation of the conflict in Iran and volatility in energy markets have led to significant fuel price hikes in the European Union. While Brent crude oil prices have fluctuated, however, petrol prices at the pump remain high. This pattern reflects the ‘rocket and feather’ effect, when prices go up quickly but fall gradually.

This state of affairs highlights serious concerns about transparency and fairness in fuel pricing in the internal market and the speed at which cost fluctuations are passed on to consumers.

The Commission should safeguard transparent, competitive and fair fuel markets for European consumers. I would therefore like to ask the following questions:

1. Is the Commission monitoring fuel price pass-through mechanisms in the Member States?
2. What analytical tools ⁽¹⁾ is the Commission using to detect distortions between oil prices, wholesalers and retailers?
3. What measures is the Commission considering to protect consumers and ensure cost reductions are reflected in the final price fairly and swiftly?

Submitted: 16.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 June 2026)**

The Commission considers competitive and transparent markets as the best guarantee for fair consumer prices. It therefore pays full attention to the competitive situation in European petroleum markets on a continuous basis. The supervision of well functioning markets in the Member States is carried out by national authorities.

The Commission is not aware of any general market failure or inefficiencies, including market distortions from presumed bad practices of wholesalers of petroleum products in the European market.

The Commission has been taking various steps to improve transparency in energy markets and the European and global oil sector.

The Commission’s Directorate-General for Energy publishes the Weekly Oil Bulletin ⁽¹⁾ with retail fuel prices on the pump (and associated taxes) based on data provided by the individual Member State, and also monitors the wholesale prices on weekly basis.

One important element of the final retail price of transport fuels, notably excise duty is subject to EU legislation. The Energy Taxation Directive ⁽²⁾ establishes the minimum excise duty rates that EU countries must apply to energy products for fuel and transport, and electricity.

The EU legislation only sets harmonised minimum rates. Member States are free to apply excise duty rates above these minima, according to their own national needs, which allows for flexibility for situations like the current crisis.

The Commission also closely monitors national measures taken by Member States to respond to fuel price increases. Where necessary, it may take action against measures violating the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Treaties.

¹ In addition to information from the *Weekly Oil Bulletin*.

⁽¹⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/weekly-oil-bulletin_en.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 2003/96/EC of 27 October 2003 restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/96/oj/eng>.