

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001230/26
to the Commission
Merja Kyllönen (The Left)
(24 March 2026)**

Subject: EU self-sufficiency in the production of sustainable aviation and maritime fuels

Member States are hopeful that the Commission will take action to make the EU more self-sufficient when it comes to sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and alternative fuels for shipping at a time when global competition for raw materials and production capacity is intensifying.

The development and scaling-up of synthetic fuels (e-SAF) are crucial for the EU's climate goals and transport security. Europe has significant technological expertise and renewable energy potential to scale up e-SAF production, but the pace of investment is lagging behind that of key competitor countries.

At the same time, the availability of bio-based fuels (bio-SAF) may decline as China, for example, looks to divert available raw materials, such as waste oils, for its own production and also actively supports the development of synthetic fuels.

There is a risk that the EU will become increasingly dependent on imported fuels, which will undermine its strategic autonomy and leave the transport sector vulnerable to disruption.

Is the Commission intending to:

1. bring in specific measures and incentives to speed up investment in e-SAF production in the EU;
2. ensure an adequate supply of raw materials for bio-SAF production; and
3. assess how fuel self-sufficiency can be integrated into the EU's security of supply and industrial policies?

Submitted: 24.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(25 June 2026)**

1. In the Sustainable Transport Investment Plan (STIP) ⁽¹⁾, the Commission accelerates investment in sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) to implement ReFuelEU Aviation ⁽²⁾. The STIP includes actions to support the Member States in setting a pooled joint double-sided auction for synthetic aviation fuels (eSAF), and assesses an EU-wide financing mechanism. To this end, the Commission launched the eSAF Early Movers Coalition ⁽³⁾ and a study ⁽⁴⁾ to define auction design and governance. The STIP also includes measures to support the supply of sustainable maritime fuels. In addition, this is coupled with the incentives and financial support provided under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive ⁽⁵⁾, ⁽⁶⁾.

2. Ensuring adequate supply of feedstock is instrumental for the increase of bio-SAF production. Delegated Directive (EU) 2024/1405 ⁽⁷⁾ enlarges the list of eligible biofuel feedstocks including intermediate crops and crops grown on severely degraded land. It is expected that biofuels produced from these feedstocks will play an important role to decarbonise transport sectors. The Commission is currently reviewing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/996 ⁽⁸⁾. In this context the Commission will consider whether adjusted rules on the certification of biofuel feedstocks should be modified.

3. As announced in AccelerateEU ⁽⁹⁾, the Commission will assess refining capacity needs to ensure resilient oil product supplies and increase domestic production of sustainable biofuels. Both the STIP and AccelerateEU aim to diversify EU supply chains by boosting domestic production of synthetic fuels (eSAF/eSMF) and advanced biofuels. The above-mentioned actions are expected to enhance EU energy independence and supply chain resilience.

⁽¹⁾ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/commission-unveils-sustainable-transport-investment-plan-strategic-approach-boost-renewable-and-low-2025-11-05_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2405/oj>.

⁽³⁾ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/eu-launches-early-movers-coalition-accelerate-sustainable-aviation-fuel-uptake-2025-12-04_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/public-procurement/procurement-details/-/procurement/5201c7be-3e33-43f6-b1e7-081412f75e34>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32023L0958>.

⁽⁶⁾ Zero-rating emissions from SAF compliant with ReFuelEU Aviation and the price-bridging mechanism implemented as of 2024, which covers bio-sourced SAF.

⁽⁷⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir_del/2024/1405/oj/eng.

⁽⁸⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/996/oj/eng.

⁽⁹⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/accelerateeu-strengthen-eu-energy-resilience_en.