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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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1. Air ticket prices in the EU are primarily determined by market conditions and can vary due to different factors. The Commission does not set fares but monitors developments affecting the aviation market and connectivity. The Commission considers that the higher air fares observed in some EU member states and/or at certain periods¹ are likely the result of a mix of higher airline operating costs, strong seasonal demand, geopolitical disruptions affecting operations and fuel prices, and capacity constraints in certain markets or periods. At the same time, competition and available seat capacity has limited the degree to which higher operating costs have been passed to passengers.

On fuel prices, the Commission observes that European carriers have been less impacted than US or Asian carriers due to fuel hedging policies on parts of their supply. Consequently, the effect on airlines' operating costs is partly mitigated.

2. At present, there is no immediate threat to the security of supply, although stocks of some fuels are tight. To strengthen preparedness, as announced in AccelerateEU², a Fuel Observatory was established to monitor EU production, imports, exports and stocks. This improves visibility over supply and demand, and supports targeted action such as alternative sourcing or coordinated stock releases. The Commission also committed to enhance its energy independence through the swift deployment of sustainable aviation fuels, as mandated by ReFuelEU Aviation.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/fr/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20260723-2>.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/accelerateeu-energy-union-affordable-and-secure-energy-through-accelerated-action_en.