

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000901/26
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (PFE)
(4 March 2026)**

Subject: Military escalation in the Middle East, increasing energy costs and the ETS's impact on the EU economy

The major geopolitical instability brought on by the escalating Middle Eastern conflict between Iran, Israel and the United States has had an immediate knock-on effect on energy markets and global logistical chains. Threats against ships and physical attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz — through which around 20% of the world's oil trade flows — have resulted in major disruptions to maritime traffic, rising insurance costs and a spike in freight and energy prices.

This state of affairs could cause delays in global supply chains and further increase freight and raw material costs, leading to repercussions for the European economy.

Set against this unprecedented backdrop of an energy crisis and trade route disruption, the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) is saddling many industrial sectors and the EU logistics chain as a whole with additional costs.

In the light of the above, could the Commission say whether it will consider urgently suspending the ETS or activating a related emergency mechanism with a view to mitigating this geopolitical crisis' impact on energy and freight prices and the EU's competitiveness?

Submitted: 4.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(21 April 2026)**

Owing to the vulnerability resulting from importing a significant share of fossil fuels from unstable regions, the impact of the situation in the Middle East has already cost Europeans an additional EUR 22 billion in fossil fuel imports in 44 days of the Iran conflict alone ⁽¹⁾.

Speeding up the production and integration of low-carbon, home-grown energy in Europe's energy system is one of the most effective ways to reduce the impact of fossil fuels on price setting.

The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) is a key tool to achieve a higher degree of energy security and independence, which in time will ensure lower, more stable energy and carbon costs.

The Commission has no plans to suspend the ETS. A review of the ETS is planned by July 2026 notably to set out the emissions cap and a decarbonisation trajectory beyond 2030 in line with the 2040 emissions reduction target set by the co-legislators.

On 1 April, the Commission has proposed to increase the firepower of the Market Stability Reserve ⁽²⁾, so that it can more effectively address excessive price volatility and keep prices in check.

The Commission will also work on an ETS Investment Booster to fast-track support to energy intensive industries as they modernise and decarbonise.

The Commission is also taking steps to lower energy prices and other costs for businesses in the context of the Clean Industrial Deal and its Affordable Energy Action Plan.

For example, the proposed European Grids Package will allow for the integration of clean energy, lowering prices for industry, and the Clean Industrial State Aid Framework provides the possibility to give electricity price relief to industries. The Commission is also working on a toolbox of targeted, temporary measures to address recent price spikes in energy prices.

⁽¹⁾ Statement by the President of the Commission of 13 April 2026, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_800

⁽²⁾ EU reinforces the stability and predictability of its carbon market https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_666