

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001472/26
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(10 April 2026)**

Subject: Appropriateness of implementing ETS2

In the view of the Director of the International Energy Agency, the energy price crisis we are now experiencing is more severe than the oil shocks of the 1970s and the crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine combined.

Not only has supply been seriously affected, but major production capacities in the Gulf region have been destroyed. Were a peace agreement to be reached tomorrow, the situation would take time to return to normal and will still affect people's pockets and the economy, with many sectors being hit — such as petrochemicals and fertiliser production — which has impacted on agriculture and on food prices.

The increase in fossil fuel taxes in the EU, on top of the effects of the energy crisis, is liable to decimate purchasing power and competitiveness.

Does the Commission plan to conduct an assessment, factoring in these shocks to the market, on the impact and appropriateness of introducing ETS2 in 2028?

Submitted: 10.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(11 May 2026)**

The new emissions trading system for road transport, buildings and additional sectors (ETS2) was adopted by the co-legislators amidst an unprecedented energy crisis created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, highlighting the urgency to reduce Europe's vulnerability to fossil fuel import volatility.

Together with other policies, ETS2 contributes to the reduction of the EU's exposure to global energy shocks by decarbonising road transport and building heating while ensuring a socially just transition.

The current geopolitical instability underlines the relevance of this objective. Fossil fuel imports cost EU taxpayers nearly EUR 30 billion monthly on average in 2025. In 44 days of the Iran conflict, gas and oil price spikes added EUR 22 billion.

As part of its design, ETS2 provided for the system to be postponed by one year to 2028 in case of exceptionally high gas or oil prices in 2026. Co-legislators recently already agreed to adjust the start to 2028 as part of the amendment to the EU Climate Law.

The Commission also proposed targeted changes to the Market Stability Reserve for earlier and stronger intervention to ensure stable and affordable prices. These changes respond directly to proposals by Member States and Members of the European Parliament and are currently in co-decision.

The ETS2 framework is designed with double solidarity at its core. The Social Climate Fund mobilises EUR 86.7 billion to support clean building heating and road transport for the most vulnerable households, while lower-income Member States benefit most.

Moreover, all national ETS2 revenues must be used to support the transition, and accelerating prior investments is encouraged thanks to a EUR 3 billion European Investment Bank ETS2 frontloading facility.
