

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001476/26
to the Commission
Anna Maria Csisint (PFE)
(11 April 2026)**

Subject: Violation of international law and energy crisis brought about by Iran's actions in the Strait of Hormuz

The continuing blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, coupled with Iran's military and economic control over it, is leading to a global energy crisis that has direct and immediate repercussions for EU Member States.

Iran is hindering free maritime transit by introducing forms of selective authorisation and by providing for — and partially applying — tolls for the passage of vessels, in open violation of the principle of 'transit passage' as codified in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and as part of customary international law.

Thus the country's actions constitute a serious and systematic violation of international law that could establish a dangerous precedent for the freedom of global trafficking and routes, and pose a direct threat to European energy security, as a significant share of EU energy supplies pass through this strategic hub.

In the light of the above:

What urgent and coordinated diplomatic initiatives, including at multilateral level, will the Commission take to formally condemn Iran's actions, urgently restore compliance with international law and ensure that freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz is fully restored, free of conditions?

Submitted: 11.4.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 May 2026)**

The President of the European Council, the President of the Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President, have been in continuous contact with partners in the Middle East and other relevant interlocutors to coordinate the EU's response.

These engagements were used to express solidarity with the countries affected by Iran's attacks, urge de-escalation, call for all parties to comply with international humanitarian law, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, and call on Iran to end destabilising activities in the region and ensure freedom of navigation, including toll free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

On 17 April 2026, France and the UK hosted a Strait of Hormuz coalition meeting to strengthen collective efforts to guarantee freedom of navigation in the Straits of Hormuz as soon as the necessary conditions are met.

The President of the Commission outlined that the EU can offer practical measures to enhance maritime security and regional stability, such as sharing satellite data via the European Maritime Safety Agency.

The High Representative/Vice-President added that the EU's Aspides naval operation could be strengthened to protect shipping across the region.

The EU urges to fully respect the free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, in line with international law, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The EU welcomes the efforts announced by Member States, including through strengthened coordination with partners in the region, to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, once the conditions are met.

The EU remains committed to safeguarding freedom of navigation and the security of global maritime trade routes, including through operation EUNAVFOR ASPIDES ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eunavfor-aspides_en?s=410381.