

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002157/26
to the Commission
Manon Aubry (The Left)
(27 May 2026)**

Subject: Oil refinery margins and response to France's request

In France, as in the EU as a whole, spiralling fuel prices are weighing heavily on households, workers and small businesses. Against this backdrop, attention has rightly turned to oil companies' windfall profits and refinery margins. On 3 April 2026, French finance minister Roland Lescure said that he had written to the Commission to request an investigation into the margins of refineries in Europe to rule out any wrongdoing.

This move raises questions, however, as official French data already shows gross refining margins on Brent skyrocketing from EUR 41 per tonne to EUR 160 per tonne between February and March 2026: an almost fourfold increase in just one month. It therefore seems that urgent action must be taken.

In light of the above:

1. Given that the request would have been sent in early April 2026, can the Commission say whether it has been duly received and examined?
2. Has the Commission opened an investigation or requested information from industry stakeholders?
3. Has it responded to the French Government? If so, can it share the results of the investigation?

Submitted: 27.5.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2026)**

The Commission has received the letter from the French Minister for Economic Affairs drawing its attention to the sharp rise in the prices of refined petroleum products and the significant increase in the gross refining margin.

In the current crisis, the Commission has increased the monitoring of the competitive functioning of markets at all levels of the refined petroleum products supply chain, including refining, to identify any behaviour that may distort competition.

This enhanced monitoring is implemented in close cooperation with the national competition authorities of the Member States within the framework of the European Competition Network.

At this stage, the Commission has found no evidence suggesting that current prices of refined petroleum products have been influenced by anti-competitive practices at European level.

Should such information be discovered, the Commission will not hesitate to launch an investigation to ensure that prices reflect market fundamentals and that the market remains competitive, for the benefit of consumers.
