

**Question for written answer E-007756/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Illegal imposition of a special excise duty on natural gas

Under Directive 2003/96/EC which lays down the framework for the taxation of energy products in Member States of the European Union, energy products are taxed only when used as motor fuel or heating fuel, and not when used as raw materials for chemical reduction or in electrolytic or metallurgical processes.

However, according to complaints by workers at an industrial plant in Kavala, Hellenic **Fertilizers and Chemicals ELFE SA**, a special excise duty has been illegally imposed on natural gas, thereby greatly increasing the plant's energy costs and eroding the enterprise's competitiveness. Employees are sounding the alarm, since the illegal imposition of a special excise duty on natural gas will lead to the closure of ELFE and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Is the imposition of a special excise duty on natural gas in line with the above EU Directive and, if not, what steps will it take to ensure that EU legislation is applied in this case?