

**Question for written answer E-006092/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Commission gives tax exemptions for yachts in Corsica, but not for 'yellow vests'

On 23 November 2018, the philosopher Jean-Claude Michéa wrote¹ that his neighbour 'lives on EUR 600 a month and [...] has to calculate the next time [...] he can go shopping in Mont-de-Marsan [...], as it depends on the amount of diesel – the poor people's petrol – he can still afford!' Since the 'kerosene left' want to teach the yellow vests a lesson, nowadays cars are not the only thing they are defending (sic). 'It's just that their second-hand car, which runs on diesel (and which the Commission is already trying to take off them by constantly coming up with new MOT requirements) is their last means of survival, i.e. the only means of ensuring that they and their family still have a roof over their heads, a job and food on the table [...]'

'While there have – thankfully – been plans for the suburbs, there haven't of course been [any] for [the] municipalities [...], where most French people live and which were [destined] for extinction in line with a 'sense of history' and 'building Europe'!

To what extent are the Commission and the French Government responsible for the increase in fuel taxes in France²? What is the impact on employment in France?

Is the fuel tax exemption for yachts in Corsica approved by the Commission in 2003 still in force³?

¹ <https://www.les-crises.fr/une-lettre-de-jean-claude-michea-a-propos-du-mouvement-des-gilets-jaunes%E2%80%89/>

² Directive 2003/96/EC of 27 October 2003 lays down the tax structures and minimum levels of taxation applicable to energy products and electricity. In 2004, the Commission concluded that 'the price increases brought about by application of the minimum rates set by Directive 2003/96/EC are likely to have adverse effect on their citizens and national economies, creating for instance an unbearable burden for small and medium-sized enterprises. The minimum rates set by Directive 2003/96/EC are liable to create serious economic and social difficulties for certain Member States.'

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32003L0096&from=EN>