

**Question for written answer E-000643/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Preventing fuel thefts in the transport sector

Fuel thefts are harming thousands of entrepreneurs in the transport sector. According to the statistics, 13.5 million litres of fuel a year is stolen from lorries in the EU, and that quantity is expected to rise in the future.

Buyers can always be found for cheap stolen fuel, and an unattended stationary haulage vehicle makes an easy target for thieves. Besides material damage, firms robbed in fuel theft are harmed in other ways, for instance because of lost working hours or the fact that delays caused by theft make a firm seem less reliable from the customers' point of view. Furthermore, Member States lose tax revenue when illicit fuel is sold off to compensate for low wages, which in turn has the effect of pushing transport prices down and thus acts in Europe a form of dumping.

Solutions to this problem are already available, one example being a safety tank, which is suitable for both old and new lorries. A safety tank protects the fuel of long-haul transport lorries in dark rest areas, avoids tank damage to dumper trucks and lumber carriers, and averts the possibility of additional costs due to environmental damage caused when a fuel tank has been broken open.

What is the Commission doing both to prevent unfair competition and tax revenue losses from arising in the situation described and to encourage the adoption of new innovations to promote security?