

**Question for written answer P-001038/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: No passing on to pump prices of the fall in crude oil prices

The price of crude oil fell significantly in 2014. More specifically, the Brent barrel price fell 55.4% between May 2014 and January 2015, from USD 109.7 to USD 48.9, while in Spain the price of RON 95 unleaded petrol went from EUR 1.422 per litre to EUR 1.117 per litre, falling by 21.4%, according to statistics provided by the World Bank, the European Commission and the Spanish Government.

This vast disparity between the change in crude oil prices and that in petrol prices shows that end consumers are not benefiting from the increase in the global supply of crude oil and that the distribution market is not functioning competitively, which is having adverse effects on the public and on businesses.

1. Why, in the Commission's opinion, is there such a big difference between the price of crude oil and the price of petrol in the EU?
2. Does it not feel that this serious issue needs to be monitored, and that an investigation into it should therefore be launched?