

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3029/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Price of petroleum

In view of the following facts:

- the cost of petroleum supplies has reached high levels and does not look likely to fall significantly;
- this trend will have inflationary repercussions on the cost of road transport, which covers 60% of present-day demand, a percentage which is not likely to fall in the short term;
- the reactions of road hauliers will force governments to take measures to prevent protests;
- the provisions in force at European level do not permit tax reductions to be granted to the road transport sector alone;
- this situation makes it difficult to introduce measures to reduce taxation because of the high cost it generates;
- the introduction of a trade price for diesel oil might appear to be the best solution to reduce inflation and prevent distortions of competition;

does the Commission intend swiftly to adopt a directive introducing a trade price for diesel oil for the road transport sector?