

**Question for written answer E-006381/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Robert Goebbels (S&D)**

Subject: Impact of the possible rise in excise duties on Luxembourg fuel on European emissions.

The Council recommendation on Luxembourg's 2013 national reform programme, prepared by the European Commission, recommends that the Grand Duchy increase 'gasoline taxes to reduce tax rate discrepancies with neighbouring countries'. The aim of this would be to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions.

The small territory of Luxembourg is effectively an international transit route, and the more reasonable fuel prices charged there encourage a significant number of motorists in transit – particularly commuters, including more than 170 000 frontier workers – to fill up their tanks in the Grand Duchy. Although over half of the petrol and diesel distributed in Luxembourg is therefore re-exported, the emissions relating to these fuels are recorded there.

An increase in the price of fuels in Luxembourg would probably result in many motorists stocking up in territories in the Greater Region of Luxembourg where prices were more reasonable, most likely Belgium.

How could the measure put forward by the Commission in its recommendations to the Grand Duchy bring down global European emissions, at least in the Greater Saar-Lor-Lux Region and the Province of Luxembourg?