

**Question for written answer E-002939/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Toine Manders (ALDE)**

Subject: Fuel duty increases distort the market

In the Netherlands fuel duties rose disproportionately last year.

Although taxes and duties are a national area of responsibility, this increase led to a reduction of up to 87% in the turnover of Dutch petrol stations in border areas.

These measures distort competition and the free movement of services and goods, as consumers cross the border to refuel because the fuel is much cheaper there.

Is the Commission aware of the disproportionate increase in fuel duties in the Netherlands?

Does the Commission agree that these measures distort the operation of the internal market, and can the Commission do anything about it?

If so, what will the Commission do? If not, why not?

Is the Commission prepared – in view of the dire situation faced by many family businesses – to carry out without delay an investigation into the adverse effects of duty increases and, if necessary, force the Dutch Government to immediately reverse the disproportionate duty increases while insisting that it pay compensation for past losses? If not, why not?