

**Question for written answer E-000068/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Fuel prices in Greece

According to Commission's weekly Oil Bulletin, the final pre-tax price for heating oil in Greece in 2009 was EUR 484 per kilolitre. Today it is more than EUR 1 000 per kilolitre, an increase of 115 percent.

The main cause of this massive increase is the over-taxation of heating oil through the Special Consumption Tax, which has risen from EUR 21 per kilolitre in 2009 to EUR 280 per kilolitre today (an increase of 1,233%), and VAT, which is the third highest in the EU, at 24%.

The high taxation of heating oil is the result of the fiscal policy imposed by the three Memoranda which requires the generation of excessive primary surpluses to service the public debt, a policy that is still being pursued in the post-programme period.

Given the extreme weather conditions, reduced incomes, the environmental burden of replacing heating oil with other energy sources that cause more pollution and the urgent need to reduce the taxation of heating oil, can the Commission say:

Is it conscionable to sacrifice the right of the Greek people to heating in order to achieve the excessive surpluses required by the Memorandum agreed between Merkel and Tsipras?

Has the Greek government proposed reducing the taxation of heating oil within the context of post-programme supervision?