

**Question for written answer E-002416/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Reducing taxes and excise duties on fuels, gas and electricity in the EU

Oil and gas prices have increased significantly compared to the beginning of this year. It is likely that oil and gas prices will not decrease as the war in Ukraine continues. Rising energy costs boost inflation and the negative effects of increasing inflation will affect all groups of people, while also reducing the competitiveness of EU manufacturing. In addition, production from countries that do not have such high taxes will become significantly cheaper compared to products made in the EU. Therefore, decreased economic competitiveness and increased cost of living will lead to a rise in unemployment in the EU because domestic consumption will fall sharply.

Excise duties and taxes on fossil fuels and electricity account for more than 50% of cost in the EU. Reducing taxes and excise duties in the short term would be the simplest way to limit the negative effects on the economy.

Does the Commission agree that increased production costs lead to the decreased competitiveness of EU producers? What measures does the Commission intend to take to tackle fuel-related inflation in the short term?