

**Priority question for written answer P-001320/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Radan Kanev (PPE)

Subject: Conclusion of agreements on the mutual recognition of tax warehouses under Directive 2008/118/EC

Up until the outbreak of the pandemic, retail prices for fuel in Bulgaria were often disproportionate, over long periods, to developments on the world's oil markets, and frequently rose in Bulgaria when international prices fell.

The problem would seem to be – and this has been recognised by the Ministry of Finance and the Commission for the Protection of Competition, which is the regulatory body concerned – that in Bulgaria it is difficult to have access to tax warehouses, especially for small players on the market, with control over 90% of these warehouses lying in the hands of just a few big players.

There is reason to believe that this leads to the distortion of competition and hence to high end prices for the citizens and businesses of that country. One way of resolving this problem would be through an agreement between Bulgaria and its neighbouring EU Member States on the mutual recognition of the status of tax warehouses in neighbouring countries and the application of a system identical to that for warehouses in Bulgaria, pursuant to Council Directive 2008/118/EC of 16 December 2008.

Based on the information available in the public domain, no such agreements have yet been concluded by the Bulgarian Government. Can the Commission state:

1. Which EU Member States have concluded agreements for the mutual recognition of tax warehouses under Directive 2008/118/EC?
2. Whether Bulgaria has made representations to the Commission and/or EU countries with a view to concluding any such agreements?