

**Question for written answer  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Sander Smit (ECR), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR), Ton Diepeveen (Pfe)**

Subject: Impact of rising fuel prices on the EU fisheries sector and need for coordinated EU action

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has triggered a sharp rise in global fuel prices, placing severe pressure on the EU fisheries sector, where fuel costs are critical for viability. Many vessels are operating at a loss or remain in port.

Commissioner Costas Kadis has acknowledged the severity of the situation and indicated that emergency support measures, including the use of EMFAF and other instruments, may be mobilised. At the same time, several Member States have taken immediate national action, including targeted fuel tax reductions and direct financial support.

The absence of comparable measures in some Member States, including under the minority government of the Netherlands, risks contributing to an uneven playing field within the internal market and underlines the need for more coordinated action at Union level.

Will the Commission encourage more coordinated action by Member States, including those that have not yet introduced emergency measures, to adopt immediate support such as fuel cost compensation to ensure a level playing field?

When will the Commission ensure rapid activation and flexible use of EMFAF and State aid rules to complement national efforts across the Union?

Beyond long-term decarbonisation, what immediate and technologically neutral measures does the Commission envisage to reduce fuel consumption and operational costs Union-wide, including accelerating approval of innovations such as pulse fishing and other fuel-saving technologies?