

**Question for written answer E-013442/2015/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Eleftherios Synadinos (NI)**

Subject: Reduction of special excise duty on heating oil in Greece

In a letter to the Ministry of Finance<sup>1</sup>, the Pan-Hellenic Federation of Fuel Suppliers and Traders has called for a reduction in the special excise duty on heating oil to EUR 60 per kilolitre (from EUR 230 the previous winter), given that it will now be necessary to turn on the heating.

In its letter, the federation maintains that the unfair and ineffective alignment of tax on heating oil with that on diesel engine fuel in an ostensible bid to combat fraud has forced households in the colder areas of Greece radically to reduce their consumption of heating oil. As a result, households are being deprived of heating, a basic necessity, in the middle of winter, while no extra tax revenue is being generated from the increase.

Furthermore, a 50% cut in funding for the means-tested heating oil allowance based on weather conditions in each area has been agreed by Greece with its partners.

In view of this:

Does the Commission agree that excise duty should be cut so as to avoid depriving Greek households of heating, a basic necessity, on the one hand and mitigate the economic and social consequences of the oppressive and extortionate taxes being imposed on the Greek people on the other? Will it raise the matter in discussions with the Troika?

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<http://www.defencenet.gr/defence/20151001/%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B7%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%B7-%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%B1/%CE%BC%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%89%CF%83%CE%B7-%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85-%CE%B5%CF%86%CE%BA-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%BF-%CF%80%CE%B5%CF%84%CF%81%CE%AD%CE%BB%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%BF-%CE%B8%CE%AD%CF%81%CE%BC%CE%B1%CE%BD%CF%83%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%B6%CE%B7%CF%84%CE%AC-%CE%B7-%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%B5%CE%BA>