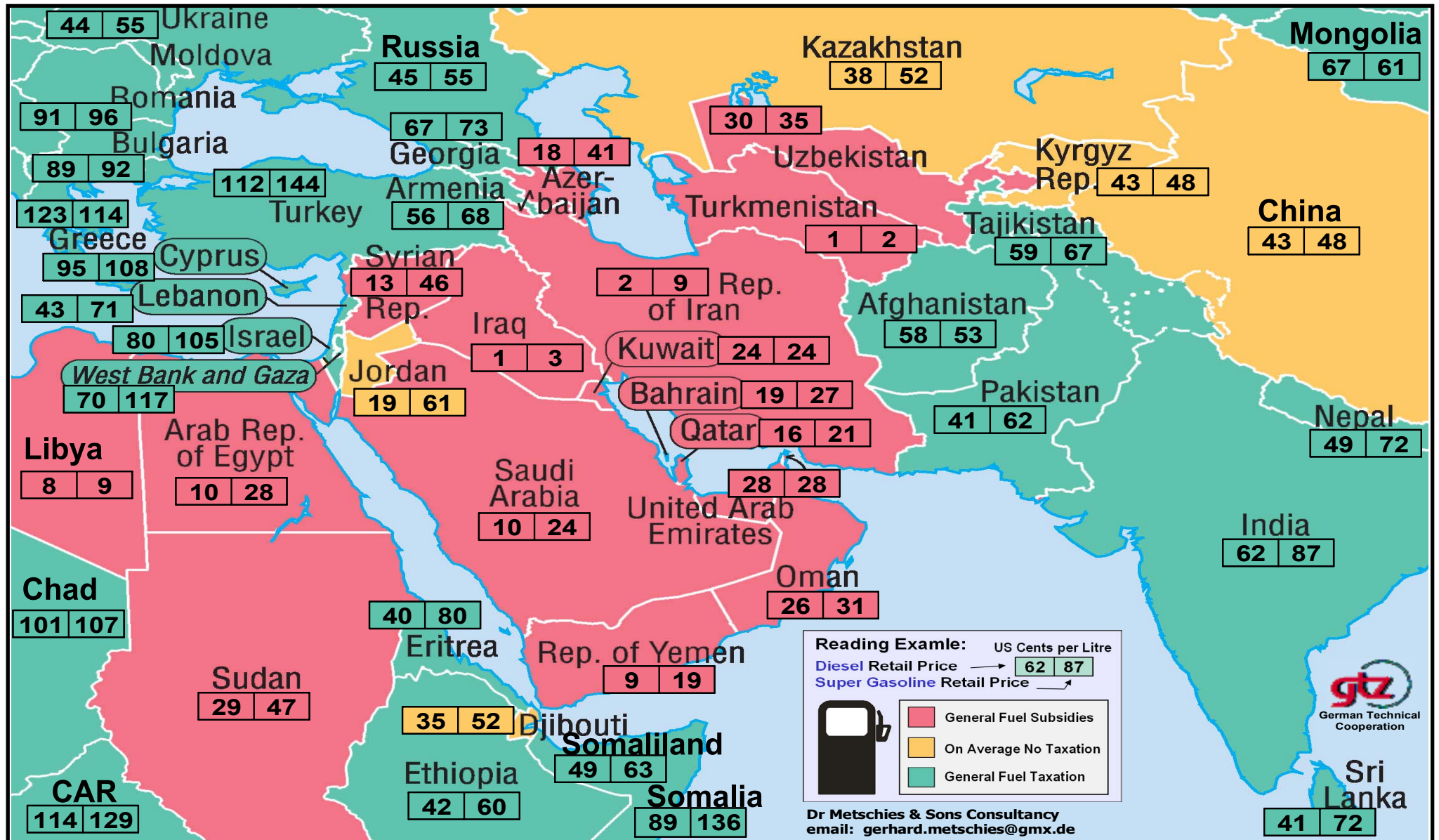
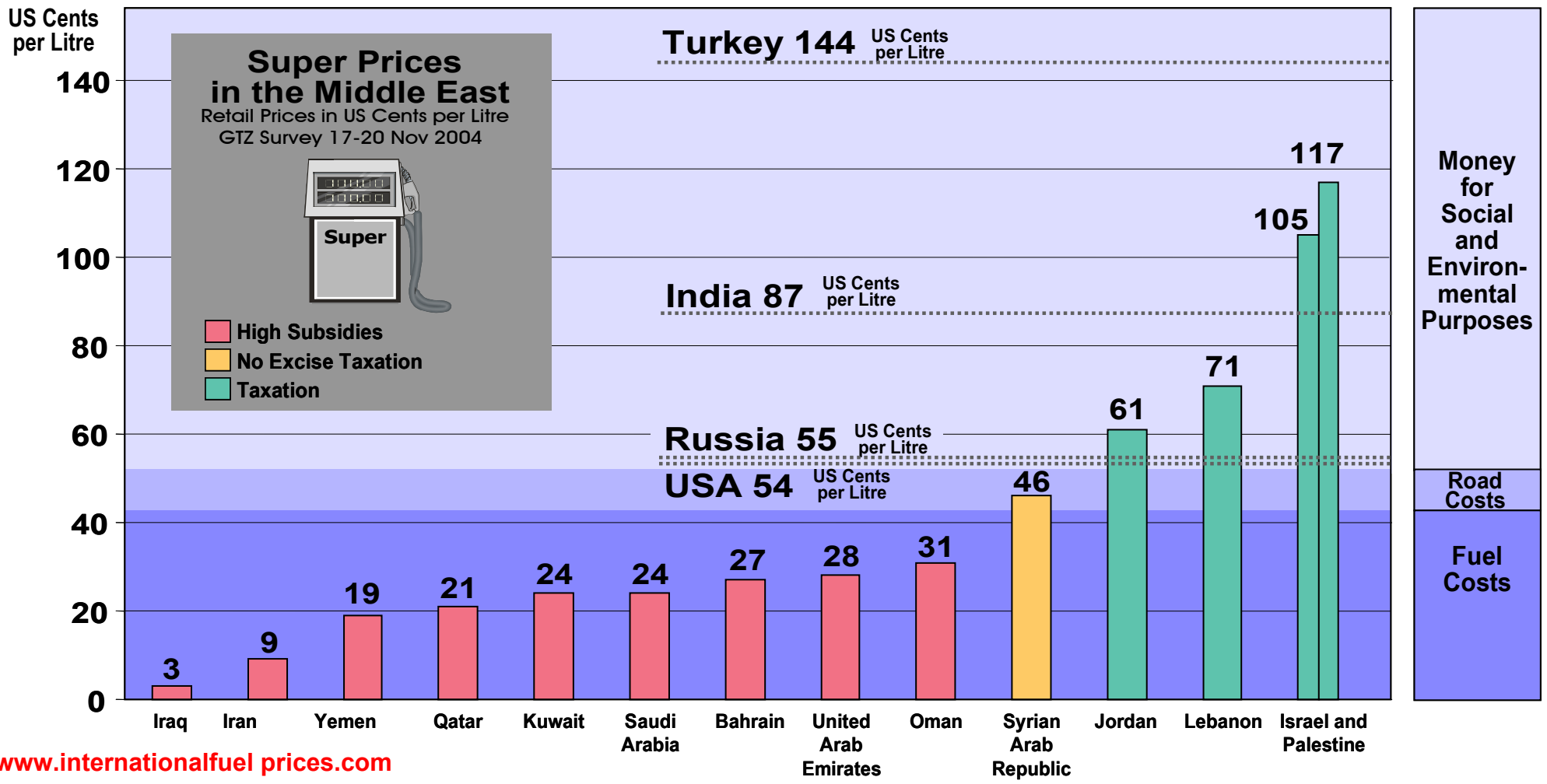


Retail FUEL Prices in the Middle East

in US Cent per Litre based on the GTZ Survey from 17-20 Nov. 2004



Potential for Rising Super Gasoline Prices in the Middle East (in US Cent per Litre based on the GTZ Survey from 17-20 Nov. 2004)



www.internationalfuelprices.com

On 19 Nov. 2004 a crude oil price level of 43 US Cents per litre is estimated to be necessary to cover the costs of the oil industry (buying crude oil on world market, refining to fuel, transporting and selling at pump stations including 16% VAT). Fuel prices beyond approximately 43 US Cents per litre may be directly or indirectly subsidised. In oil producer countries fuel might be subsidised indirectly in comparison with possible sales on the world market. In the year 2003 the costs of fuel subsidies have reached in some countries up to 8% of total state tax revenues.

Further 10 US Cents per litre (additionally to the 43 US Cents per litre) are required to cover the costs of road construction and maintenance. Therefore the minimum retail price of fuel at the pump station should be in the range of 53 US Cents per Litre (43+10=53), cf. fuel prices of USA and Russia.

Every US Cent per litre above 53 US Cents may be considered as a special excise tax, which may be spent for social purposes (schools, health care, pensions and also for the environment, ...).