

**Question for written answer E-014966/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Agreement between Pfizer and Allergan

On Monday 23 November, the Pfizer pharmaceutical company announced that it had concluded a deal for the acquisition of Allergan (a Dublin-based pharmaceuticals company) for USD 160 billion, thereby creating a pharmaceuticals giant.

It is now being reported<sup>1</sup> that the deal will allow Pfizer to transfer its registered office to Dublin, having been operating in the US for 165 years, thereby saving itself tens of millions of dollars in tax.

This follows a number of pharmaceutical company mergers and acquisitions from January 2015 to a value of around one trillion dollars.

In view of this:

- Has the Commission ensured that this has not resulted in the creation of a monopoly?
- Are measures being taken to protect the right of the public to cheap and effective medicines?
- Are mergers admissible where it is clear that their sole purpose is tax avoidance?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/c65488bc-91db-11e5-bd82-c1fb87bef7af.html#axzz3slqQl2bM>