

Question for written answer E-015692/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lefteris Christoforou (PPE)

Subject: A uniform corporate tax is contrary to the EU's free market economy principles

The ongoing discussions and the demand for the establishment of a single corporate tax rate for all EU Member States is a source of legitimate concern. The very existence of the EU is based on the principles of a free market economy and competition, free of the interventions characteristic of a closed-type and centralised economy. EU Member States have the basic right to freely develop their economic strategies providing they adhere faithfully to a number of basic principles of the EU. The taxes (VAT, consumption taxes, corporate taxes, income taxes, etc.) are not formed on a uniform basis and each country sets and determines its own fiscal policy.

Moreover, each EU Member State has its own characteristics and its own comparative advantages. Some enjoy advantages in industry, agriculture, mineral resources, etc., and that is fully respected. Others, especially the small EU countries, enjoy a comparative advantage in providing financial services. It is unacceptable and unethical to impose uniform taxation and to financially marginalise some countries which for decades have been investing in the services sector.

Will the Commission say whether it supports policies for uniform taxation in the EU that are ultimately incompatible with the underlying principle on which the EU is based?