Question for written answer E-014675/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EUR 100 million EFSI loan for the Grifols company

On 28 October 2015, Grifols announced that it had reached an agreement with the EIB under which it had received financing worth EUR 100 million as part of the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)[1]. Even though the agreement had been announced before, it was concluded just days after the company transferred management of three-quarters of its business to an operations centre in Ireland for tax reasons. Among other things, the group decided to move to Ireland to save tax on R&D. It might be pointed out that Spain is one of the eight G20 countries worst affected by tax avoidance, according to recent studies[2]. Commissioner Moscovici himself recently said that it is unacceptable that certain multinationals are making large profits in the EU but paying little or no tax within the EU's borders.

1. Does the Commission believe that companies' tax practices should be taken into account when deciding to provide EFSI resources, on much more favourable terms than those available on the lending market?

2. Does the Commission believe that its messages against tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance are credible when at the same time it is rewarding companies such as Grifols, just days after it transferred its operations centre for tax reasons?

[1] https://www.grifols.com/documents/10192/1277329/np-20151028-es/1b2c6a18-ba18-40f3-8187-c1fa6bedd6d5.
[2] https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bn-still-broken-corporate-tax-101115-embargo-en.pdf.