

Question for written answer E-014883/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: No to excessive taxation imposed by EU governments on the working classes

The first set of conditions imposed under the third memorandum is the continued heavy taxation of working class households that has already been going on for years, a pill made all the more bitter by the preferential treatment accorded to big business interests in the form of exemption from municipal taxes and the non-imposition of fines for falsified invoices and tax returns.

In particular, the extortionate special property tax is becoming more firmly established and more widely imposed. Taxes on a wide range of basic consumer items such as wine and veal are also increasing, as well as the amount of road tax and the number of those paying it.

At the same time, the tax offensive is to be stepped up by the introduction of a new legal arsenal ostensibly imposing penalties on tax evasion. These include not only denial of facilities for repayment of arrears but also imprisonment and seizure of property, while, to add insult to injury, large companies are still being allowed to get away with legal forms of tax avoidance.

Given that the third memorandum was drawn up by the Greek Government, together with the Commission the ECB and the IMF, what view does the Commission take of the fact that the payment of each new instalment is being made conditional on additional painful sacrifices imposed on working classes and the less affluent in the form of extortionate taxes, while big business interests are being left untouched?