

**Question for written answer E-015711/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lefteris Christoforou (PPE)

Subject: Refund of VAT to citizens of third countries

Since there are significant cuts even of essential funding in the EU's 2016 budget, it is legitimate to ask why EU Member States should continue to refund VAT on the purchase of consumer goods to citizens of third countries.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- How much is refunded by EU Member States to third country nationals as VAT?
- What is the aim of this policy?
- Given the current economic difficulties facing Member States and the EU itself, is it necessary to continue this practice of refunding VAT?

I have previously tabled a similar question, but unfortunately the answer was unclear. I am therefore repeating it in the hope of receiving a very clear answer.