European Parliament

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Plenary sitting

19.5.2015 B8-0528/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on increasing resources for tax authorities in the fight against tax evasion and on the influence of private-sector audit firms in the European-level decisiontaking process

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on increasing resources for tax authorities in the fight against tax evasion and on the influence of private-sector audit firms in the European-level decision-taking process

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas because of the losses to state exchequers as a result of tax evasion, which, for France, amount to 6.7% of GDP, the middle classes face an untenable level of taxation in order to maintain the level of tax receipts;
- B. whereas the number of staff at the French tax authority fell by 8.8% between 2008 and 2012; whereas tax authority resources need to be stepped up in order to combat tax havens and tax avoidance strategies;
- C. whereas audit firms and a number of legal practitioners have too much involvement in European-level legislative processes in spite of the fact that reports have recommended that individuals who have engaged in unlawful conduct should no longer be allowed to be members of expert groups;
- 1. Calls on the Commission to ensure that tax authorities have more resources at their disposal;
- 2. Insists that the Commission remove from its expert groups any private-sector professional who has been involved in an aggressive tax optimisation scheme;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission.