

**Question for written answer E-006071/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jude Kirton-Darling (S&D) and Paul Brannen (S&D)

Subject: VAT on sanitary products

In the UK, sanitary products are currently subject to a reduced level of Value-Added Tax (VAT) of 5 % rather than 17.5 %. Despite the fact that in 2000 the UK House of Commons established that sanitary products are far from being 'luxury items', they are still not considered essential under VAT rules. A change in law to rectify this gender tax discrimination and reduce the VAT to 0 % would be preferable, but there are concerns that this could contravene EU rules on Value-Added Taxation.

Can the Commission explain whether there would be a conflict with EU rules and how sanitary products are taxed in other EU countries?