

**Question for written answer E-006725/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Tax fraud in Europe

A study looking at the overall level of fraud in connection with compulsory levies in the European Union, carried out at the request of the Commission, has estimated that tax fraud results in an annual loss of EUR 2 000 billion. This is EUR 1 000 billion more than an earlier estimate made by Parliament at the beginning of 2013.

These results represent an enormous loss for the EU and its Member States. At a time when European countries are having to tackle ever higher levels of public debt, it is important to be able to combat tax evasion effectively.

For VAT fraud the figure is EUR 193 billion a year, which amounts to 1.5% of EU GDP, with the highest losses in Italy (EUR 36.1 billion) and France (EUR 32.2 billion, or three times more than the French finance ministry's own estimate).

1. In light of these new figures, what action does the Commission intend to take?
2. Are new approaches to tackling tax fraud being explored?