

**Question for written answer E-010469/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Incitement to launder money and engage in undeclared work

In Belgium, the upper limit for cash transactions, currently EUR 3 000, is set to rise to EUR 7 500 following a decision announced by the new Secretary of State for the Fight Against Tax Fraud, who is a member of the NVA party.

The previous government had set the threshold at EUR 3 000 in order to combat money laundering in certain sectors, including the diamond trade.

The Secretary of State justified increasing the threshold to EUR 7 500 by citing the need to 'conform to the prevailing conditions elsewhere in Europe'. She also stated her desire to protect certain economic sectors, including second-hand vehicle trading, against the threat of relocation.

1. Does the Commission support the views expressed by the Secretary of State regarding compliance with common practice elsewhere in Europe?
2. Given that this measure will allow more money to change hands without any controls whatsoever, is there not a risk that it will lead to an increase in undeclared work or money laundering?

Does this measure not run counter to the Commission's guidelines on fighting fraud, and should it not lead to the Commission taking action against the Belgian Government?