

**Question for written answer E-002152/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Distortion of VAT rates on yacht chartering in France and Italy

Following the litigation brought before the courts by the Commission against France concerning transposition of the European Court of Justice ruling of 22 December 2010 in the Bacino case, France changed the way in which it applies value added tax (VAT) to yacht chartering. The chartering of recreational craft to be used for leisure purposes by the charterparty is now subject to VAT at the standard rate.

This means that the VAT rate in France is 3.2 % higher than in Italy. The distortion is clear and is causing concern both among professionals in the industry and among the elected leaders of coastal municipalities. The sailing and yachting industry is especially dynamic and is a significant job provider, particularly in south-eastern France.

Is the Commission going to take steps to correct this distortion?