

**Question for written answer E-005839/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ashley Fox (ECR) and Andrew Lewer (ECR)

Subject: Cider duty ruling

The recent ruling by the Commission that small-scale cider makers should have to pay duty on their products is the second taxation development that will hurt Britain's entrepreneurs.

This follows the recent VAT 'place of supply' rules, which have proven to be detrimental to businesses in the digital market and act as a disincentive to trade with the EU. Prior to this ruling, cider makers who produced less than 70 hectolitres were exempt from paying duty. Cider production is a long-standing tradition in the South West, and elsewhere in England, and inflexibilities on taxation rates and policy such as this will only hurt our microbusinesses.

Is the Commission similarly concerned about these inflexibilities?

Will it be bringing forward a proposal to exempt microbusinesses and small businesses from EU taxation policies to allow EU Member States to nurture their economies?

Finally, if the Commission is not prepared to grant these exemptions, what other proposals will it be putting forward to support microbusinesses?