

**Question for written answer E-005864/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Flavio Zanonato (S&D)

Subject: Relief from social security contributions and free competition in Venice and Chioggia

By Decision 2000/394/EC of 25 November 1999, the Commission ruled against the provisions contained in Law No 30 of 28 February 1997 concerning relief from social security contributions for the districts of Venice and Chioggia.

Two ECJ judgments (C-302/09 and C-353/12) ordered the Italian authorities to take steps to recover that relief.

For its part, Stability Law No 228 of 24 December 2012 (Article 1(351-356)) establishes that 'the INPS [National Institute of Social Insurance] shall arrange to ask the undertakings benefiting from the aid granted for (...) data backed by appropriate documentation'.

Given that over the years the public or publicly owned entities concerned by the procedure to recover the relief in the districts of Venice and Chioggia have definitively escaped the measure, while the sums to be repaid by the SMEs (including interest and collection fee) amount to almost triple the total relief received, does the Commission think it necessary to check with the Italian Government whether the INPS has carried out case-by-case checks for each individual sector in order to avoid undermining the principle of free competition?