

**Question for written answer E-006647/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Syed Kamall (ECR)**

Subject: Charge being levied in France on foreign property owners

I have been contacted by a couple of constituents who are concerned about a charge levied on them upon the sale of a small second house in France.

My constituents tell me that they sold the property for the same value as it was originally bought for, despite having made improvements, so they think it ought to be clear that they have not made any capital gains.

My constituents further tell me that they, as foreign property owners not based in France, were required by their *notaire* to pay the sum of EUR 1 900 so that an accredited representative could attest to whether or not capital gains tax was due.

My constituents say they were informed that this was due to a decree issued by the French Government; they are concerned about the fairness and justice of this requirement, given that it only applies to foreign nationals.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether it is aware of this practice and requirement under French law?
2. Is the Commission aware of whether this is a charge levied only on foreign nationals?
3. Is this in breach of EU law, and, if so, what action is the Commission taking?