**Question for written answer E-007190/2015**
**to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Tax avoidance by big firms

An examination of the economic data of companies taking part in the global stock market index Morgan Stanley Capital International has shown[1] that the biggest listed companies in developed economies avoid paying at least USD 82 billion of taxes each year. The countries where companies avoid taxation the most include Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The companies following such practices include some which were also involved in the well-known 'LuxLeaks' case.

The findings of this report highlight the pressing need to adopt a rigid and efficient framework for tax transparency and protection against tax avoidance of companies at European level. This need is even more crucial in the present circumstances of economic crisis and austerity imposed on the peoples of Europe.

In March 2015 the Commission acknowledged the need to undertake initiatives in the field of tax competition and tax justice and transparency, proposing the adoption of legislative acts by the Council[2].

The Commission is asked to answer the following:

1. What is the timeline for the adoption of the proposed acts?

2. Are these proposals sufficient to achieve the desired goals?

3 Why has the role of Parliament as co-legislator been set aside in this issue, which is so directly related to transparency and accountability?

[1] http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ca42fd90-ded6-11e4-852b-00144feab7de.html#axzz3Y2o1L9Sf
[2] http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/company_tax/transparency/index_en.htm