Question for written answer E-008574/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Trade surpluses or transfer of benefits

According to Eurostat, Ireland is running a foreign trade surplus (goods and services) in excess of 20 % and Luxembourg of 30 %, although the MIP (macroeconomic imbalance procedure) shows much lower figures, and therefore no recommendation has been made on account of exceeding the limit of 6 %.

How can this difference between the Eurostat figures and the MIP be explained?

Assuming that the Eurostat figures are correct, does this disproportionate surplus not equate to the transfer of benefits to countries with lower taxation?