

**Question for written answer E-008688/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Monica Macovei (PPE)

Subject: Proposal for a Council directive for the mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation

According to Parliament's resolution of 25 March 2015 on the Annual Tax Report¹, EUR 177 billion in VAT revenues were lost as a result of non-compliance or tax avoidance in 2012.

In order to fight tax fraud, the Commission has adopted the proposal for a Council directive for the mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation (COM(2015)0135). Under this proposal, it will not be possible for a Member State to refuse to exchange information on tax rulings on grounds of commercial secrets.

How does the Commission envisage protecting businesses' commercial secrets in order to incentivise them to comply with the obligation to supply Member States with information about their fiscal activity?

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0089.