

**Question for written answer E-010328/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Branislav Škripek (ECR)**

Subject: Implementation of a reduced rate of VAT on basic food products

On 23 May 2015 the Government of the Slovak Republic announced its plan to reduce VAT on basic food products from 20 % to 10 %. This reduced rate of VAT will apply only to food products which are included on the list. According to the Prime Minister's statements, the basic food products which will be subject to the reduced rate of VAT will be milk, bread, bakery products, butter, fresh meat, and freshwater fish mainly produced by Slovak producers. In other words, the reduced rate of VAT will not apply to all butter on the market, but only to that made mainly in Slovakia.

This may put several food producers at a substantial disadvantage, thereby distorting competition and market conditions.

Since the Prime Minister's Social Democratic Party (SMER-SD) has a comfortable majority in the National Council, this measure will certainly be proposed and approved by the National Council in the second quarter of 2015, coming into effect on 1 January 2016.

In the Commission's opinion, could this situation be considered to be an infraction of competition rules?