Question for written answer E-012710/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: VAT collection loophole in the EU

In September 2015, the Commission provided data on a loophole in VAT collection.

Across the EU, the loophole – a discrepancy between VTTL (VAT Total Tax Liability) and actual VAT revenue – meant a shortfall of EUR 168 billion, or 15.2%, and varied between the Member States: from 4% in Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden to 41% in Romania This means that the budgets of some Member States are shrinking each year by between a few to more than ten billion euros as a result of their ineffective tax policies.

Furthermore, the loophole in VAT collection in the EU has grown in recent years. This is in spite of the improving economic situation in the EU and existing concessions in the European tax system, such as the introduction in 2011 of measures to facilitate e-invoicing or special tax laws for SMEs, which entered into force in 2013.

What action does the Commission intend to take in respect of this problem? When does the Commission plan to publish legislative proposals on further simplifications to the system mentioned in the report on tax collection? What conclusions have been reached regarding the legal provisions introduced in 2011 and 2013?