

**Question for written answer E-001017/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Maintaining the tax exemption on French ports to keep our jobs

On 21 January 2015 the Commission asked the Netherlands, Belgium and France to abolish the tax exemptions for their ports. The European Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager, claims this measure is justified by the need to avoid any distortion of competition.

In the case of France, this means that most of our ports, both maritime and river ports, would have to give up exemption from corporation tax. The same goes for the French overseas ports.

Our ports already experienced a decline in activity in 2015. Ending tax exemption could further weaken our port industries and threaten the jobs that they create.

Does the Commission intend, in view of the fragile economic situation of the French ports, to reverse its decision and maintain these tax exemptions, which it should be remembered came into force before the adoption of the Treaty of Rome in 1957?