

**Question for written answer E-002785/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Information on the Panamanian company Mossack Fonseca

Recent reports from the ICIJ in publications that include *El Confidencial* and *La Sexta* have revealed how a large number of very wealthy people have systematically been able to evade taxes with the help of consultancy firms like Mossack Fonseca. The scale of the losses to the public purse as a result of these practices and other methods of tax evasion is perhaps the most significant problem that the authorities are facing in their efforts to achieve a fiscal surplus – public money is basically being pillaged. In the light of the foregoing we believe that this problem has to be addressed. With that in mind:

1. Does the Commission have an estimate as to the amount of money that European citizens have avoided paying in tax via offshore companies?
2. What action is the Commission going to take to ensure that it is no longer possible to engage in such practices?
3. In the context of the ongoing discussions on a fiscal capacity for the eurozone, does the Commission take the view that increasing the tax burden on wealthy individuals by eliminating tax evasion and avoidance is an essential part of any fiscal policy aiming to give the EU and the eurozone the investment capacity required to address macroeconomic imbalances?