

**Question for written answer E-007391/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)**

Subject: Commission measures against Poland's 'supermarket tax', a progressive tax on retailers

On 1 September 2016, Poland introduced a progressive tax on retailers known as the 'supermarket tax.' A rate of 0.8% is applied to companies making a monthly turnover of under 170 million zloty (EUR 38.3 million) and 1.4% to those with a higher turnover.

Large retail chains operating in Poland, of which many are foreign-owned, immediately complained against the tax, alleging that it unfairly benefited small local retailers, to their detriment. The Commission has ordered the Polish Government to suspend and amend the law pending the Commission's inquiry. Poland has agreed to do this but stated that it would, if necessary, dispute the Commission's decision at the EU Court of Justice.

With this tax, Poland was attempting to hinder the expansion of supermarkets, something that supplants local economies underpinned by short supply with a model based on more road haulage, causing the gradual disappearance of local shops.

How can the Commission justify this interference in the internal affairs of a Member State while claiming to pursue a responsible environmental policy?