

**Question for written answer E-007590/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Application of super-reduced VAT rates for fish in view of its health benefits

Cardiovascular diseases are one of the main causes of death in Europe, with millions of people hospitalised at a cost of billions of euros every year.

In contrast to the current trend towards a diet rich in monounsaturated fatty acids, eating fish can prevent this type of disease thanks to the beneficial properties of omega 3 fatty acids.

The polyunsaturated fatty acids found in fish lower blood pressure, widen blood vessels and reduce triglyceridemia, thus preventing vascular problems such as blood clots and heart attacks. They also provide high levels of protein, vitamins and minerals.

A correlation can be seen between the increase in cardiovascular disease and the decline in the consumption of fish, which does not generally reach the average consumption recommended by the WHO. A range of studies suggest that eating fish between twice and four times a week reduces the possibility of suffering from cardiovascular diseases by between 30 and 45%.

In some cases, fish has the same VAT rate as soft drinks, for example. Given its health benefits, does the Commission not consider it appropriate to recommend to the Member States that they apply super-reduced VAT rates for fish?