

**Question for written answer E-000719/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Tax regime for diamonds - a new way of dodging tax

In July 2016, the Commission approved the entry into force of a special tax regime for diamonds.

This regime applies to the taxation of profits in the diamond trade in Belgium. It therefore replaces the normal corporate tax regime.

Thus, while work is being done within the Union to regulate and prevent abuses of tax rules and illegal or immoral State aid within the European Union, the Commission gives its seal of approval to specific regimes that will reduce the tax paid by diamond traders.

On what grounds did the Commission take this decision, and what were its intentions in doing so?

The Belgian minister, Johan Van Overtveldt, claims that the tax authorities encounter difficulties in assessing the profits of diamond traders. Would it not be highly desirable to increase the resources made available to national tax authorities or to establish a European administration to perform these duties?