

**Question for written answer E-001558/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Tax practices of the Caterpillar group

Several of the Caterpillar group's American plants have recently been searched, presumably following suspicions from American tax authorities regarding orchestrations by the group to massively evading taxes through a transfer of profits via its Swiss subsidiary.

The same system of course also exists to extract profits from the European Union in order to benefit from considerably more advantageous tax rates negotiated with the Swiss authorities (see my question E-006864/2016).

This is utterly unacceptable, and certainly with regard to the recent economic layoff in Gosselies which will bring a loss of 6 000 jobs.

It is true that there is no fiscal Europe. It is also true that measures pertaining to transfer prices remain a competence of the Member States.

Nevertheless, in its attempts to address citizens' growing indignation, will the Commission propose legislation that will allow it to start investigations – as is the case for the US Senate – into these orchestrations that are depriving Europe of massive tax revenue, whereas no substantial activity is being developed in the third country? The list of tax havens may in fact not satisfy this objective, as low tax rates for companies does not seem to have been taken as a substantive criterion.