

**Question for written answer E-007491/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Impending abolition of reduced VAT rate for islands

As part of the MOU drawn up by the European Union and the SYRIZA-ANEL Government, the abolition of reduced VAT rates for islands in the prefectures of Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Evros and the Dodecanese (excluding Karpathos and Rhodes) is to be put into effect. The abolition of this measure, which was achieved through labour and popular struggles, will result in a significant and unsustainable revaluation of hundreds of products, mass consumption goods, and services of higher demand.

Employees, self-employed professionals, farmers and the unemployed are demonstrating against this unacceptable measure which will deal yet another serious blow to the income of ordinary people on the islands who are already suffering from unpopular policies (reduced wages, pensions, subsidies, etc.) and the growing tax burden imposed by the government and the EU. Meanwhile, island inhabitants face additional burdens associated with life in the island regions (transport costs, inadequate communications, dramatic shortages of doctors and nurses at hospitals, and chronic problems with schools).

In view of the above, where does the Commission stand on the request:

- not to abolish the reduced VAT rate on the islands in the regions mentioned above, but also to extend the measure to other islands?
- to abolish VAT on a wide range of mass consumption goods for all of Greece?