

**Question for written answer E-004470/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: EU infringement proceedings concerning Council Directive 92/83/EEC against Austria and Croatia

The Commission is, among other things, conducting infringement proceedings No 20162102 against Austria and No 20142209 against Croatia in respect of a conflict between national rules on the reduced rate of excise duty for small producers of ethanol, and EU law. Both cases concern EU rules on excise duty on alcohol, and in both cases the Member States appear to have been violating EU law for a long time. In the case of Croatia, a reasoned opinion was issued in December 2016, and Croatia was given two months to amend its national rules, which it evidently has yet to do. It should be emphasised that tax proceedings should be a priority for the Commission as they are a source of the EU budget.

Following parliamentary questions P-003926/2018 and P-004256-18, I would like to ask the Commission how the two infringement proceedings are progressing.