

**Question for written answer E-004724/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: The pink tax in Europe

As the new academic year begins, the Scottish Government has announced that women and girls studying at secondary school, as well as primary schoolgirls of menstrual age, will be provided with access to essential health products such as compresses and tampons free of charge.¹ According to certain studies, over her fertile life, each woman will spend around EUR 5250 on such products, which in some countries are still considered non-essential luxury goods, despite being of primary necessity, since misuse can lead to health problems, such as urinary-tract infections.

- (1) What instruments does the Commission have at its disposal to put an end to the so-called 'pink tax' in Europe, which affects more than half of all European citizens?
- (2) What will the Commission do to ensure that consumers, already penalised by excessive taxation, are not hit by price rises in such products owing to their being deemed to be products with extended producer responsibility under the Single-Use Plastics Directive?
- (3) Does the Commission have any studies of the impact of the pink tax on the female economy, which is already affected by the considerable gender wage gap?²

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/feb/05/period-poverty-scotland-poll-shows-women-go-to-desperate-lengths>

² <https://www.lavanguardia.com/economia/20180308/441345415228/dia-mujer-8m-huelga-feminista-brecha-salarial-ue.html>