

Question for written answer P-000750/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Syed Kamall (ECR)

Subject: German tax authority

I have been contacted by a constituent who runs a television production company. He writes that in March 2014 his company signed a deal with the German broadcaster ZDF (Mainz, Germany). He claims that the German tax authorities have since withheld a significant proportion of payments (GBP 100 000) because they question the company's legitimacy.

My constituent claims that his company has made strenuous efforts to prove otherwise, submitting details of staffing activities, contracts, social security registrations and proof of salary payment. He writes that the company's accounting firm, Grant Thornton, has branded this process grossly unnecessary but not uncommon, stating that 'it is unclear when this process will be resolved. We have tried to expedite the process but the German authorities have made it very difficult. We have other clients in a similar position who are yet to receive their monies back from the German authorities after considerable time'.

1. Does the Commission agree that the process implemented by the German tax authority to confirm legitimacy is unnecessarily burdensome and contrary to internal market principles?
2. If so, what measures is it taking to ensure better coordination between Member States in such areas to ensure that SMEs have full access to the internal market?