

**Question for written answer P-001066/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Abolition of tax on large shopping centres in Spain

The Commission would like Asturias and other autonomous communities in Spain, such as Navarre, Catalonia, La Rioja, Aragon and the Canary Islands to abolish or alter the taxes they have imposed for years on large shopping centres in the form of an eco-tax. Big superstores on the outskirts of towns and cities have an adverse effect on the environment. Not only do they encourage the use of cars but these huge structures also eat up enormous amounts of land and energy, and in addition force public authorities to build new infrastructure to connect them to their towns or cities. Imposing an eco-tax on these shopping centres is fully justified in that it offsets damage to the environment caused by these businesses. This was endorsed by the Constitutional Court of Spain in its judgment 122/2012 of 5 June 2012.

The EU has advised Spain to use 'green taxation'. Why then are Spain's autonomous communities not able to tax the adverse environmental impact large shopping centres have on their regions, as happens with other economic activities such as industry or road freight transport?