

**Question for written answer P-002256/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Swissleaks

On 8 February 2015, international tax fraud amounting to over EUR 180 billion was revealed when the Swissleaks scandal broke.

Clearly, this is totally absolutely inadmissible at a time when people are struggling to cope with the economic hardship affecting our countries.

In response to the same problem of tax fraud, the United States adopted in 2010 the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) enabling effective sanctions to be imposed, including withdrawal of US operating licenses, where banks refuse to provide financial information regarding US citizens.

Will the Commission seek to ensure that banks that refuse to assist in the prevention of tax fraud by providing financial information, or deliberately encourage their clients to take advantage of tax evasion loopholes and thereby flout national laws, face financial penalties or even exclusion from the European banking sector?