Question for written answer P-014414/2015

to the Commission

Rule 130

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Subject: TAXE Committee - 'confidential' code of conduct room documents

Parliament's special TAXE Committee has requested the Commission to share certain documents in light of its investigative report. Among these are the 'room documents' relating to the work of the code of conduct group on business taxation.

The Commission has rejected Parliament's request to openly share these documents based on the fact that the 'room documents' are confidential. A specific example is the document dated 20 May 2010 entitled 'Administrative Practices Questionnaire, replies from the Member States', a follow-up report on the 1999 Simmons & Simmons study.

On what legal grounds does the Commission determine the confidentiality of these documents and how does it specifically relate to the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents?

Is the Commission aware that the specific report mentioned above was provided to researchers from the University of Amsterdam on the grounds of a request for information based on Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001? Are there other cases in which the Commission has provided third parties with information denied to the TAXE Committee?

How does the Commission evaluate this conduct in light of its obligation under the treaties to cooperate with Parliament and will the Commission publish all the documents of the code of conduct group that were incorrectly determined to be confidential?