

**Question for written answer P-002732/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Panama Papers - establishment of an international tax agency

Scandals involving tax havens are continuing to follow one after another, and the parties concerned are not just multinationals, but top-level political representatives, including some Members of the Commission, for example Mr Arias Cañete, whose immediate family is mentioned in the Panama Papers.

In the light of scandals such as this and LuxLeaks, it is no wonder that people suspect financial and political circles of colluding with each other to line their own pockets. Tax fraud is a serious problem for public treasuries, which are being deprived of resources needed to support the public services on which social cohesion depends.

Our party recently tabled a question in the Spanish Parliament on the establishment of an international tax agency under UN auspices to combat tax avoidance and tax competition between countries; such an agency should have the power to impose penalties and to compel multinationals to pay taxes where they generate profits. This is consistent with the proposal put forward by the G-77 and the ICRICT at the Third UN Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

Would the Commission be willing to support a measure of this kind, given that there is no specific way of averting the drain on public funds?