

**Question for written answer P-002025/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Pina Picierno (S&D)**

Subject: Commission decision against tax aid for the areas hit by the earthquake of 6 April 2009

The earthquake of 6 April 2009, which struck the city of L'Aquila and surrounding areas, killed 309 people, injured 1 600, displaced 80 000 and caused EUR 10 billion worth of damage.

The reconstruction and recovery of the area are still ongoing and the EU has allocated EUR 493 million in aid from the EUSF.

The Commission has initiated infringement proceedings (Decision C (2015) 5549 of 14 August 2015) against the tax exemptions enjoyed by public and private enterprises in the region.

These exemptions have already been applied a number of times and have never been investigated for possible irregularities before.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- 1) Does it not consider that these infringement proceedings are based on an erroneous interpretation of the concept of State aid, given that the enterprises that have benefited from it were at a very grave disadvantage and that competition has not been really affected by this fiscal measure?
- 2) Does it not agree that a possible forced recovery of taxes, as demanded by the Commission, could undo all the recovery efforts made so far, thereby putting at risk a regional economy which is still fragile and bringing to its knees a population that has lost virtually everything due to the earthquake?