

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0873/00
by Alejandro Agag Longo (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: VAT

Since 31 December 1992 we have had a 'temporary' system of indirect taxation in the EU. The European Parliament has repeatedly pointed to the need for the introduction of a definitive system based on the principle of taxation in the country of origin. To date there have been only slight changes in the temporary VAT system.

The smooth operation of the single market would require a definitive system which does not further distort the free play of the market and hence the best possible allocation of resources. However, the Commission's work programme for 2000 does not seem to envisage any measures to this end. Does the Commission still want to introduce a definitive and efficient VAT system? What are the reasons for its apparent immobility?