

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0266/09  
by Jens Holm (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: The VAT Directive in the EU

Does the Commission consider that it would accord with European law, particular the VAT Directive (2006/112/EC<sup>1</sup>) if a Member State abolished VAT or reduced the rate of VAT on ecological products (defined, for example, as products which comply with the standards/provisions of the EU or Member States), with the aim of stimulating the market for environmentally sound products?

Would it be compatible with the EU's provisions - particularly with reference to the VAT Directive - for a Member State to introduce a levy on meat or a higher rate of VAT on meat? The aims here would be to reduce meat consumption, pursue environmental objectives and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (according to the FAO report 'Livestock's Long Shadow', the livestock industry is responsible for some 18% of world emissions of greenhouse gases).

Is the Commission aware of any Member State's having taken or planned to take such measures?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1.