

**Question for written answer E-010224/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: High cost of living in Mayotte

For the past five weeks, the island region of Mayotte has been in the grip of a serious social crisis triggered by the severe economic insecurity in which its people live, aggravated by the high cost of basic necessities. It is a situation all too familiar to overseas island territories and it underscores the importance of a balanced approach to the question of the taxation of goods bound for such territories.

Within the European Union, Mayotte does not yet have the status of an outermost region, a factor which restricts EU action there, as in similar territories. However, since it has become a department of France, the French authorities have undertaken to complete the process of transforming its status to that of an outermost region by 1 January 2014.

- What is the Commission, for its part, doing in preparation for Mayotte's acquiring outermost region status?
- Has the Commission yet worked out a strategy for the taxation of goods and for combating commercial cartels and monopoly agreements, which tend to flourish in island territories?
- Lastly, what action is the Commission hoping to undertake in support of the Mahorian population, who are angry at the high prices they are forced to pay and at the lack of prospects for young people?