

**Question for written answer E-003241/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

Subject: Application of unequal prices in certain areas to citizens of Malta and people from other EU Member States

The European Union protects such fundamental values as human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality and respect for human rights. Any person who is a citizen of an EU Member State is naturally also considered a citizen of the EU. This means that when applying national tax regulations in the Member States, the basic principle prohibiting discrimination against people from other EU Member States must be respected and they cannot be made subject to different standards from the citizens of the country in question.

I have received a complaint from an EU citizen concerning a discriminatory situation in Malta. It indicates that people who are EU citizens (even those possessing a Maltese identity card), but not Maltese residents have to pay different water and electricity charges (from 35 % to 65 % higher), and that there are different prices for bus tickets. Deposits are also required by television, Internet and telephone companies, etc.

Does the Commission not consider that EU citizens from other Member States are thus being discriminated against?

Furthermore, what measures is the Commission taking or does it plan to take to stop such discriminatory policies?