

**Question for written answer E-006870/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU Platform for Tax Good Governance

We welcome that Commissioner Šemeta finally has a robust plan for tackling tax evasion and avoidance, given that the Union loses approximately EUR 1 trillion every year to these activities.

The new Platform for Tax Good Governance is essential for the effective application of the Commission plan. However, the platform appears to be heavily populated by the very same associations whose members have been engaging in and advising on tax avoidance and, in some instances, evasion. This is a clear conflict of interest.

The Commission accepted the conditions laid down by Parliament's Committee on Budgets in September 2012 in exchange for lifting the block on the expert group budget.

Does the Commission believe it is acceptable for the Platform to have twice the number of industry members as any other stakeholder (trade unions, tax academics or development NGOs)? Does the Commission believe it is acceptable for nine of the fifteen members to be drawn from industry groups representing tax advisors and accountants? What measures will the Commission take to rectify this membership imbalance on the Platform and how will it manage the clear conflict of interest?