

**Question for written answer E-014465/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

Subject: Delays affecting tax collection in Cyprus

The 2012 annual report of Cyprus's Auditor General puts the country's total tax arrears at EUR 1.7 billion, or approximately 10 % of national GDP. Not only is this figure excessive for a country facing the consequences of the economic crisis, but unfortunately it also appears to be increasing.

1. Can the Commission provide similar data regarding the scale of the problem in other EU Member States?
2. Can it assist the Cyprus Government in any way in addressing this alarming problem, which is having serious repercussions for public finances and the country's economy?