

**Question for written answer E-003247/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Profits of the Ibex 35 companies in 2013

Over the course of the 2013 financial year, the biggest companies in the Spanish economy, which form the Ibex 35, managed to earn EUR 18 872 million. These massive profits were made in a year when Spanish society was suffering from the devastating effects of the austerity policies implemented by Mariano Rajoy's government.

This high level of revenue is in stark contrast to the dire economic situation that the rest of the country is facing: approximately six million people are still unemployed; more than a quarter of the entire population is living in the shadow of poverty; millions of people have absolutely no income whatsoever. And these are just a few examples. In this socio-economic context, Spain's working classes are footing most of the bill left for the country's public funds as a result of financial speculation. In line with the recommendations made by the European Union, the government has tried to reduce the deficit by means of a range of measures that affect the bulk of the population. To this end, Rajoy's government has increased VAT, cut public spending on health and education, de-indexed pensions and implemented a long list of other austerity measures that have increased the impact of the economic crisis on domestic consumption and, as a result, driven small and medium-sized enterprises, the biggest sources of jobs in Spain, out of business.

Is the Commission aware of the massive revenue achieved by the Ibex 35 companies during the 2013 financial year?

Does the Commission think that Spain's biggest businesses should contribute to the country's economic recovery by means of taxes, at a time of economic crisis such as we are experiencing now?

In its next recommendations for Spain, does the Commission intend to introduce an increase in the current level of taxation on the profits of large companies?

Does the Commission think it is necessary to establish a special tax on such profits so that large companies make a contribution to the economic recovery while the serious social effects of the economic crisis are still being felt?