

**Question for written answer E-009979/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR)**

Subject: Exemptions from VAT and fuel charges for air carriers

Reducing emissions of harmful gases and fighting unemployment are two urgent challenges facing the EU's Member States. However, VAT exemptions and zero-rate fuel charges for air carriers contradict these goals since, firstly, such policies do not give carriers any impetus to reduce gas emissions. Secondly, they are contrary to principles of equal treatment of transport operators. And thirdly, they deprive the Member States' budgets of revenues – estimated at EUR 40 billion annually – that could be used for tax relief on labour costs and for fighting unemployment, both of which are urgently needed given the great amount of pressure that Member States' budgets are under.

What steps will the Commission take in order to change this state of affairs in which the air transport sector is receiving preferential treatment that contradicts the aims of the Europa 2020 long-term development strategy?