

Question for written answer E-001031/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bas Belder (ECR)

Subject: General Court judgment on the Spanish Tax Lease system

Following the judgment of the General Court of 17 December 2015 (Joined cases T-515/13 and T-719/13), which annulled EC Decision C(2013) 4426 final of 17 July 2013 on the Spanish Tax Lease system (SA.21233), could the Commission please clarify the following:

1. Does the Commission agree with the statement of the Spanish government that the General Court found that the Spanish Tax Lease system is 'lawful'? (see the Spanish government press release of 17 December 2015 - 'General Court of EU considers former "tax lease" to be lawful': <http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/lang/en/gobierno/news/Paginas/2015/20151217-taxlease.aspx>)
2. Given that the decision of 17 July 2013 was a final decision closing a formal state aid investigation (which was opened by the Commission decision of 29 June 2011 to initiate the formal investigation procedure), does the annulment mean that this investigation has now been reopened?
3. If so, what are the possible ways in which the Commission could close this investigation?