

**Question for written answer E-005535/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sabotage of our overseas regions in the name of competition

On 27 July 2017, the Commission announced the end of corporate tax (CT) exemptions for French ports.

Philippe Kalil, President of the Major Seaport Authority of Guadeloupe, has expressed his concern over this Commission decision, which puts overseas ports in danger. These ports in so-called 'outermost' regions (ORs) risk losing the tax break under which tax-free business zones within the ORs are exempt from corporate tax until 2019.

Mr Kalil highlights this undermining of sector-specific tax assistance for investment, when strategic sectors like our ports need to be identified and supported.

Since half the population of the EU's outermost regions are French, does the Commission realise that applying CT to major seaports without offsetting this with real benefits for that sector will endanger the entire overseas economy?