**Question for written answer E-004428/2018**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Auke Zijlstra (ENF)**

Subject: Dividend tax

Finanzen.nl reports that the Dutch Fund and Asset Management Association (DUFAS) has calculated that the abolition of dividend tax in the Netherlands will adversely affect private investors in Dutch investment funds[[1]](#footnote-1). Abolition will cost Dutch private investors more than EUR 130 million a year. This is because on the one hand it will no longer be possible to offset tax deducted at source abroad and on the other hand access to lower rates of foreign taxation at source via tax conventions will be hampered.

Thus the abolition of dividend tax represents a threat to the EU pension plan for Dutch pension savers, as the EU pension plan relies mainly on strengthening the third pension pillar, the individual savings system. What the individual savings system entails is that pension savers invest in investment funds which, by means of their broad spread of investment targets, minimise their investment risks and in the long term can achieve a reasonable return on investment. It is precisely this use of investment funds that will be made unattractive by the abolition of dividend tax.

1. Does the Commission believe that this abolition of dividend tax will adversely affect the sustainability of the EU pension plan?

2. Does the Commission consider it desirable for millions of Dutch pension savers to be placed at a disadvantage in comparison with pension savers in other EU Member States?

3. How will the Commission draw the Netherlands Government’s attention to the undesirability of abolishing dividend tax?

1. finanzen.nl/obligaties/nieuws/Particulieren-betalen-ruim-130-miljoen-euro-per-jaar-voor-afschaffing-dividendbelasting-1027492591 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)