Question for written answer E-003011/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Development aid

Researchers at the World Bank have found that if a country receives development aid, the amount of money held in the private offshore accounts of the country's elite increases by about 7.5%. The greater a country's dependence on development aid, the higher the share that ends up in tax havens. In the seven countries whose GDP is lowest in proportion to the foreign aid they receive, the figure is roughly 15%.

These findings are based on data from the following 22 countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Zambia, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda [1] .

1. How much development aid did the EU grant each of these countries over the period from 2010 to 2019?

2. Will the finding of this study, namely that 7.5% of development aid finds its way into bank accounts in tax havens, have any impact on EU development policy towards the countries in question?

3. Has the Commission itself carried out similar studies to check whether, and if so how much, European taxpayers' money ends up in tax havens?

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1 Jørgen Andersen, Niels Johannesen, Bob Rijkers, 'Elite Capture of Foreign Aid: Evidence from Offshore Bank Accounts', Policy Research Working Paper 9150, World Bank.