

**Question for written answer E-003142/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Turnover tax on legal betting

Over the years, the legal gaming sector has become a key industry for the Italian economy. This is not so much because of the turnover it generates or the tax it pays on revenue (approximately 11 billion in 2019), but because the sales network alone – built up with passion and dedication by thousands of small entrepreneurs and now at a standstill since March – today employs over 200 000 people.

At a time of crisis and complete paralysis, the Italian Government has set out to punish this important sector. The 'Save sport' decree, part of the 'Recovery' decree, includes a 0.5 % turnover tax on sports bets.

This additional tax is not only unreasonable but even counterproductive, since it would lead to an estimated 30 % increase on current taxation, thus forcing operators to make drastic choices which will have an immediate negative impact on jobs. Moreover, a tax of this kind would mean that licensees were no longer able to compete against illegal competitors, which use offshore accounts and so are not taxed under Italian fiscal law.

In light of the foregoing, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How does it intend to safeguard the rights of these entrepreneurs?
2. What measures does it intend to take to prevent many businesses from having to close?