

**Question for written answer E-004142/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Julie Lechanteux (ID)

Subject: Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe elected President of the Eurogroup

On 9 July 2020, Ireland's Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe was elected by his peers to be the new President of the Eurogroup.

Mr Donohoe, who took office on 13 July, is a staunch opponent of the taxation of the GAFA companies (Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple) because his country, Ireland, hosts the European headquarters of most of the US digital giants.

With the exception of the Portuguese presidency of Mário Centeno (2018-2020), ever since the 2005 decision to have an elected president the Eurogroup has been headed up by finance ministers from countries leading the way in tax optimisation: Luxembourger Jean-Claude Juncker from 2005 to 2013, Dutchman Jeroen Dijsselbloem from 2013 to 2018, and now the Irishman Paschal Donohoe.

Meanwhile, the Commission estimates that some EUR 1,000 billion in tax revenue is lost each year to aggressive tax planning by multinationals taking advantage of favourable legislation in certain Member States.

How might the Commission consider taxing the GAFA companies given that the Eurogroup is controlled by countries practising large-scale tax optimisation and which are clearly opposed to the taxation of these web giants?