

**Question for written answer E-006881/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Indirect taxation of cash payments and violation of EU principles

The Italian Government recently introduced a scheme awarding 10% cashback (up to a limit of EUR 150) on payments made electronically before 31 December 2020. This scheme effectively imposes a charge on cash payments, making them economically disadvantageous and thereby indirectly discouraging the use of cash, contrary to EU principles. It is important to note that even the European Central Bank (ECB) has repeatedly said that cash is the only means of payment for which no fee may be charged. Moreover, the ECB has also repeatedly stressed the economically inclusive role that cash plays. In view of this, granting a tax incentive to those using other payment methods seems grossly unfair.

In the light of the above:

Does the Commission intend to take up this matter with the Italian Government to encourage it to broaden the scope of the scheme to cover cash payments too?

Does it consider it right, fair and acceptable to impose a tax on cash, albeit indirectly, that discriminates against those who use it, to the detriment of economically vulnerable groups who do not have equal access to means of electronic payment?