

Question for written answer E-005178/2021/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: IKEA's 15 years of tax evasion and fraud via the Netherlands

On 10 November 2020, the Commission in Brussels announced that it would be pursuing its investigation into tax dumping by the Netherlands in favour of IKEA since 2006 remained ongoing¹.

In 2011, IKEA purportedly amended its tax evasion practices via a foundation based in the Netherlands. The Commission then apparently closed its investigation into illegal activities between 2006 and 2011.

It was against this backdrop that in November 2021, IKEA published job offers reserved for foreign refugees speaking substandard French (A2 level²), jeopardising the safety of their colleagues and customers. Companies making a profit out of these refugees (such as Each One) allegedly took 15% their salary.

1. Given that this tax investigation has been ongoing for over 15 years, when does the Commission expect to reach a conclusion and put an end to tax dumping by the Netherlands and IKEA?
2. To prevent further investigations from dragging on, what changes is it making to speed up the proceedings?
3. What are the maximum possible penalties (in terms of percentages of profits or turnover) for companies such as IKEA that engage in tax evasion?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_17_5343;
https://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/case_details.cfm?proc_code=3_SA_46470;
https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202046/272426_1973466_310_2.pdf;
https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases1/202027/272426_2169565_285_2.pdf

² <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F34739>; <https://www.lefigaro.fr/societes/accuse-de-discriminer-les-francais-a-l-embauche-ikea-evoque-un-malentendu-20211109>