

ORAL QUESTION H-0516/06  
for Question Time at the part-session in July 2006  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Eugenijus Gentvilas  
to the Council

Subject: Different taxation systems in EU Member States

On 17 May 2006, a representative of the Austrian Government, Alfred Finz, answered a number of questions from MEPs on corporate taxation in different EU countries. In response to a question by Eoin Ryan MEP, Mr Finz indicated that certain Member States had recently introduced new taxation systems under which some businesses were subject to much lower rates of taxation than in the old Member States.

Mr Finz views lower corporate tax as a form of unfair competition which must be eliminated. Does the Presidency-in-Office of the Council agree that the new Member States had the right to introduce their own taxation systems? Would the Council take the view that attempts to harmonise taxation are evidence of a desire on the part of the old Member States to solve their economic problems at the expense of the new Member States?

Tabled: 31.05.2006  
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