

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2377/01  
by Hugues Martin (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Delays in VAT refunds in Member States

Professionals from the business tourism sector recently approached me about the recovery of VAT in the Member States.

In addition to the problems arising from the disparities between VAT rates for the same service in the different Member States, which still apply under the present transitional arrangements for the common VAT system, this sector is particularly affected by the sometimes excessively long delays in carrying out reimbursements.

Will the Commission clarify its position on this matter? Does it intend to put forward an amendment to the existing legislation specifically with regard to harmonising time limits for reimbursements in the Member States and reducing the maximum time, e.g. to three months?