

**Question for written answer P-011077/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Frieda Brepoels (Verts/ALE)

Subject: French 'charges having equivalent effect' on beer

France has increased the duty on beer by 160%, making it 10 to 16 times higher than the duty on wine. This disproportionate charge leads to discriminatory treatment among similar alcohol products and their producers, as it gives wine – which is primarily a domestic product – indirect protection and a competitive advantage over beer, which is primarily imported.

Can the Commission please state what measures it will take to ensure that this 'charge having an equivalent effect', which damages the internal market and the free movement of goods between the Member States, is removed?