

**Question for written answer P-009324/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Agnes Jongerius (S&D) and Paul Tang (S&D)

Subject: Commission plans to support defendants in Luxemburg Deltour case

On Monday 12 December 2016, a Luxembourg court heard the appeal against Antoine Deltour, Raphaël Halet and Édouard Perrin. They are being charged with domestic thievery, violating professional secrets and violating business secrets. In fact, their actions unveiled tax practices (the Luxleaks scandal) that initiated European legislation to combat tax evasion by large corporations.

What has the Commission done, or what is it planning to do, to support these men (for example by reimbursing the legal costs of their trial), in recognition of the fact that the defendants have served the public interest with their revelations?

The Commission owes these men for their personal sacrifice. It was eager to use the Luxleaks revelations in defence of its legislative agenda, as demonstrated in its Communication COM(2015)0135. We recognise that Luxembourg and its courts have sovereign authority in applying their national laws. This does not acquit the Commission of its moral obligation to urge the Government of Luxembourg to take into account the public interest of this specific case.