

FORM FOR TABLING A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

<i>ORAL QUESTIONS</i>	<i>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</i>
To be put to: COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <input type="checkbox"/>	To be put to: PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNCIL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VICE-PRESIDENT / HIGH REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>
Question for oral answer with debate (Rule 115) <input type="checkbox"/>	Question for written answer (Rule 117) <input type="checkbox"/> Priority question (Rule 117(4)) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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SUBJECT: EU Platform for Tax Good Governance <small>(please specify)</small>	
TEXT: <p>It is welcome that Commissioner Semeta finally has a robust plan for tackling tax evasion and avoidance, given that the Union loses approximately EUR1 trillion every year to these activities.</p> <p>The new Platform for Tax Good Governance will be essential to the effective application of the Commission plan. However the platform appears to have been heavily populated by the very same associations whose members have been engaging in and advising on tax avoidance and in some instances evasion. This represents a clear conflict of interest.</p> <p>The Commission accepted the conditions laid down by the European Parliament Budget Committee in September 2012 in exchange for lifting the block on the Expert Group budget.</p> <p>Does the Commission believe it acceptable to have twice the number of industry members as any other stakeholder (trade union, tax academics, development NGOs)? Does the Commission believe it acceptable to have nine of the fifteen members drawn from industry groups, tax advisors and accountants? What measures will the Commission undertake to rectify this membership imbalance on the Platform and how will it manage the clear conflicts of interest?</p>	
Date: 10/06/2013	