

**Question for written answer E-003343/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Strengthening public healthcare systems and doing away with tax dumping practices in the EU

As documented by a recent media investigation¹, the Lombardy Region's over-reliance on accredited private-sector bodies to provide health services has seriously weakened the Lombardy healthcare system's response to the current COVID-19 emergency. Moreover, as the same investigation revealed, one of the largest private healthcare providers in Lombardy, to which the Humanitas hospitals belong, has benefited significantly from the privatisation scheme, generating considerable earnings which, thanks to the corporate structure of the group, are taxed at very low rates in the Netherlands.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How does it intend to ensure that EU resources earmarked to support national healthcare systems, provided under existing programmes and those about to be introduced, do in fact improve public health and do not simply, either directly or indirectly, swell the coffers of private firms?
2. How does it intend to smooth the way to the harmonisation of Member States' tax systems, in order to put a stop to the tax dumping practices which are depriving some EU countries of significant resources in the form of tax receipts?
3. How does it intend to guarantee minimum common taxation at EU level of the profits of multinational companies and ensure that those companies pay tax in the country where those profits are generated?

¹ https://www.raiply.it/video/2020/05/report---L-affaire-Covid-f6898185-8654-4474-babe-b5dd8a9d4b0b.html%20wt_mc=2.social.fb.Rai3_Report.&wt&fbclid=IwAR1rTI2hxZi7QkP6ciCLuBwnbEqDmXfLgFXiV-W2w6nh_SwHIJGVHI6i8pw