

**FORM FOR TABLING A QUESTION FOR
WRITTEN ANSWER (Rule 130)**

Select only one addressee:

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL

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COMMISSION

Priority question

AUTHOR(S): Molly Scott Cato MEP

SUBJECT: Exemption on excise duty for cider and perry producers in the UK
(please specify)

TEXT:

On 26 February 2015 the Commission requested that the United Kingdom amends its excise duty legislation granting exemption for cider and perry made by small producers. The exemption concerns producers, whose production does not exceed 70 hectolitres over a period of 12 consecutive months and who make products for sale.

Cider production is a key local industry in South West England and small producers are greatly under threat due to this request from the Commission.

Can the Commission justify why it is not possible to grant an exemption to these small producers given that the alcohol content of their produce is low?

How can the European Union support small businesses and producers, when they take the greatest hit on rulings and legislation proposed in the area of taxation?

Does the Commission recognise that such a request will allow large cider brands, such as Strongbow, to further dominate and monopolise the cider market, giving consumers less variety, choice and lower quality products?

Signature(s):

Date: 12/03/2015

