

**Question for written answer E-003838/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Cutting VAT to mitigate the high cost of living

Over the last ten years the consumer price index for the EU as a whole has surged by more than 30%, chiefly as a result of the policies adopted by the EU in recent years. Specifically, since Von der Leyen took over as President of the Commission in 2019, the cost of a Spanish shopping basket has rocketed 34%¹, while wages have flatlined.

The high prices faced by consumers each day are subject to VAT, which swells the cost of everything they buy by around 20%.

Given that VAT is an EU competence and it has set the minimum standard rate at 15%²:

1. Does the Commission consider that cutting rates in the VAT Directive could lead to an increase in Europeans' purchasing power and thus ultimately mitigate the high cost of living?
2. Does the Commission intend to revise this Directive to establish more exceptions and set lower rates in order to alleviate the tax burden?
3. Is the Commission considering foregoing VAT revenue, with the consequent reduction in the EU's budget and dimensions?

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¹ <https://es.euronews.com/business/2025/09/27/los-europeos-pagan-un-tercio-mas-por-llenar-la-cesta-de-la-compra-que-en-2019-en-espana-un?>

² Directive 2006/112/EC