Question for written answer E-000568/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: VAT change on books and printed media in Latvia

Due to an amendment of the Latvian VAT Law, in force since 1 January 2026, the reduced VAT rate for books and printed media of 5 %, instead of 21 %, now only applies to books and printed media in the Latvian, Latgalian and Liv languages and the official languages of EU Member States, European Economic Area Member States, the Swiss Confederation and EU candidate countries, or the official languages of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This excludes several minority languages in Latvia, such as the Russian, Belarusian and Roma languages.

1. Would the Commission assess the compliance of new legislation with the principle of fiscal neutrality in light of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax[1]?

2. Would the Commission assess whether new legislation complies with the prohibition of discrimination based on language as enshrined in Article 21(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, respect for linguistic diversity (Article 22 of the Charter), and respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities (Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union)?

3. Would the Commission assess the compliance of new legislation with the prohibition of indirect discrimination based on ethnic origin in access to goods in services as enshrined in Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin[2]?

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[1] OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2006/112/oj.
[2] OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/43/oj.