

**Question for written answer E-006633/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Corruption in Italy

On 3 February 2014, the Commission published its first report on corruption. The chapter on Italy contains estimates of the national impact of corruption, which, according to the Italian Court of Auditors, costs the country EUR 60 billion annually – approximately half of the total cost of corruption in the EU as a whole.

On 8 July 2014, ECOFIN endorsed the Commission's recommendations for Italy made in the context of the European Semester, which involve expanding the role of the Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority.

Over the last decade, Italy has been repeatedly rocked by serious cases of political corruption: the 'tangentopoli' affair involving the illegal financing of political parties, and – more recently – the scandals surrounding EXPO 2015 procurement, the MOSE project and the reconstruction of L'Aquila. What is more, irregularities have emerged in the administration by regional councils of EU-funded vocational training projects in the banking sector.

It is clear that corruption is extremely widespread at all institutional levels, a phenomenon which hits taxpayers in the pocket and undermines people's faith in politics.

Given the seriousness of the situation throughout the country, and since self-regulation has proved completely ineffective, does the Commission intend to take specific measures, in addition to the above recommendations, to combat corruption in Italy?