

**Question for written answer E-008209/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: Investing online

On 13 October 2014, the French Financial Markets Authority (AMF) published a study of the results obtained by individuals investing in CFD (contract for difference) and forex (currency) trading in France. The study was undertaken after the AMF received numerous complaints from customers who had been attracted to online investing and had ended up losing large sums of money. It was found that, in the period 2009-2012, almost nine out of 10 investors lost out. The total lost by 13 244 individuals was EUR 175 million – reflecting an average loss per person of EUR 10 900. Savers cheated in this way have, moreover, very little chance of getting their money back, as most of the trading companies involved are based in countries that do not cooperate with the French law enforcement authorities. The AMF decided to launch an awareness-raising campaign about the problem, using the slogan ‘Risk is only a click away’.

1. Does the EU have comparable Union-level information about this type of investment?
2. Given the complexity of foreign exchange markets and the very high level of risk attached to these financial instruments, what plans does the EU have to protect private investors in Europe and to regulate the activities of online trading platforms?