

**Question for written answer E-010624/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Fraudulent use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) in Hungary

The recently published annual report of the European Court of Auditors states that there is a high risk of fraud in Hungary. The 2013 and 2014 country-specific recommendations for Hungary urged its government to take serious steps to combat corruption.

Furthermore, according to a report by Transparency International Hungary published in October 2014, 'corruption ... has an extremely centralised character in today's Hungary. It comprises the elimination of independent state institutions, the almost total abolishment of checks and balances, some violation of private ownership rights and also the rise of rent-seeking behaviour and actions.' Moreover, recent actions taken by the Hungarian Government suggest that the activities of independent institutions are being further curtailed and that new laws and administrative arrangements are increasing the risk of fraudulent use of EU funds.

How will the Commission ensure that Article 59(2) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation No 966/2012) is implemented in Hungary in relation to the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)?