

**Question for written answer E-000667/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Joëlle Bergeron (EFDD)**

Subject: Military spending and the Maastricht criteria

With a view to enabling France to respond more effectively to the threat of Islamist attacks, a number of French politicians – including Claude Bartolone, the socialist President of the National Assembly, in an interview on 18 December 2014 for the news channel LCI – have urged that French military spending be excluded from calculations carried out to determine whether France has complied with the Maastricht criteria. I would point out that France has sent troops to Mali to combat the threat posed there by Islamist forces, a move which has benefited all the EU Member States.

The Commission has thus far flatly refused to consider this request, however.

In the light of recent events in France, is the Commission willing to reconsider its position on this request?