Question for written answer E-007904/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: 2015 European Semester and macroeconomic imbalances II

On 13 May last, the Commission published its country-specific recommendations in the context of the European Semester, which included a recommendation to adapt possible pay increases to increases in the productivity of the business, sector or region.

Given that productivity gains basically depend on business decisions, such as investment in technology and organisation, this recommendation is an inducement to ‘reward’ those businesses, sectors or regions which invest less with low or zero pay increases and vice versa, i.e. to disincentivise investment.

Does the Commission not consider that this contradicts the stress which these recommendations lay on the need for investment?

On the other hand, if the objective is to increase productivity, why is there no mention at all of factors such as R&D or failing schools?