

**Question for written answer E-014058/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Threat of infringement proceedings against Portugal

Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis has apparently said that the possibility of Commission action is not being ruled out should Portugal fail to submit its draft state budget for 2016 without further delay. According to the published reports, the Commission might even go so far as to institute infringement proceedings against Portugal for late submission of the 2016 draft state budget. These comments clearly amount to unacceptable meddling and interference in the political process of forming a government following the general election in Portugal on 4 October, a process which is taking place in accordance with the rules of the Portuguese Constitution and must proceed without outside pressure and without any encroachment on the sovereignty of national institutions and the Portuguese people.

How can the Commission justify this attitude, which shows scant regard for Portugal's sovereignty, its institutions, and its Constitution?

In how many cases to date have infringement proceedings been instituted for late submission of draft national budgets to the Commission, and which Member States were involved? On what grounds were the proceedings brought and what was their outcome?