Question for written answer E-000569/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Low interest rates and public investment

Monetary policy measures (quantitative easing, very low interest rates, etc.) do not seem to be sufficient to significantly revive growth and improve social parameters relating to employment and combating poverty.

Low interest rates would enable public authorities to invest massively at little cost, not only in the social, health and education sectors but also in sectors which are vital to the future of generations yet to come, such as renewable energy and sustainable mobility.

The public authorities would undoubtedly receive a return on their investment which was highly beneficial in view of the current interest rates. Moreover, many public authorities in certain Member States still have attractive opportunities to invest to control their debts. However, at present their hands are completely tied by the austerity policies advocated by the Commission. Does not the Commission consider the time to be ripe to ease the stranglehold of austerity so that Member States can make the most of the opportunity afforded by the current low interest rates?