

**Question for written answer E-000570/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Investments in real estate - ESA 2010 standards

In the years after 2000, the Belgian State boosted its coffers by selling off public buildings. Now, however, the fears voiced at the time have been confirmed. The money the State spends on renting buildings has skyrocketed, increasing by 21% between 2007 and 2012 (7.6% discounting inflation).

The buildings were sold off in the first place in order to enable the Belgian State to comply with the standards imposed on Member States by the EU.

The ESA 2010 standards ban public institutions from including real estate investments among their assets. Private-sector firms are allowed to do this, however.

Does the Commission not regard the ESA 2010 standards as a nonsense, because they create distortions between the public and private sectors? Would it not make more sense to allow the State to include real estate investments among its assets, as private-sector firms are able to do?