

**Question for written answer E-003400/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Meeting the Spanish public deficit target

In the light of its decision to take a softer stance on Spain meeting its public deficit target this year, we welcome the fact that the Commission has finally stopped using such an ineffective mechanism in an effort to boost economic recovery. We agree with Commissioner Moscovici's decision on the Spanish deficit, but we would like to ascertain which technical reasons and changes in economic indicators led him to such a decision.

Does the Commission's decision constitute a change to the budgetary orthodoxy that started in 2011? Specifically:

- Does the Commission accept that the EU's strategy of 'expansionary austerity' has failed and that it has only prolonged the recession?
- Will the Commission change its stance on its fiscal policy, in an effort to bring it in line with the ECB's monetary policy and therefore change its recommendations on salary reduction and cuts to public spending?
- Will the Commission consider addressing the deficit by tackling the shortfall in Spanish government revenue?