

**Question for written answer E-003932/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Third post-programme surveillance mission

In April 2016, the Commission published its report on the third post-programme surveillance mission, which took place at the start of this year.

The report evaluates the Portuguese economy, with particular focus on public finances and budgetary execution. The report is strange: it lauds all the reforms of the previous government, which lost the elections, and severely criticises the steps taken by the new government, which is born out of the sovereign will of the Portuguese people.

It heaps praise on the previous government's spending cuts, privatisations and reforms to make the labour market more flexible, but glosses over the fact that the cuts did not fix any of the problems in our economy and even made Portuguese public finances worse. On the other hand, it criticises all of the current government's measures: the higher national minimum wage, the reversal of privatisation plans and wage cuts imposed by the Troika, and the reinstatement of the 35-hour week. Yet this fails to take into account that those measures represent commitments made to the people, which gave its unequivocal verdict in the elections of 5 October 2015.

Can the Commission explain the basis for the misgivings that it has expressed about the steps currently being taken in Portugal, and the extent to which it takes democracy into account in its assessments of the various bailed-out countries?