

**Question for written answer E-006784/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Investment pact and easing of ESA 2010 European accounting standards

Ever since I took up my seat in the European Parliament I have been calling for the ESA 2010 accounting standards to be revised. At the same time I find myself pleasantly surprised to read statements by Commissioners in favour of more ambitious public investment in the Member States. Most recently, the Commission's President and the Commissioner responsible for employment have come out with statements to that effect. However, none of this will ever come about until we release what constitutes the primary brake on investment in Europe. For it is the imposition of the ESA 2010 accounting standards in particular that is stopping Member States from breaking away from the relentless and ultimately unsuccessful pursuit of austerity. For several years now, net public investment in Belgium has been virtually zero.

Are our economies doing any better as a result of such policies?

On the contrary, the EU has been constantly seeking a way out of the crisis since 2008, and we have seen mass redundancy after mass redundancy.

Does the Commission intend to make the essential corrections to the ESA 2010 Regulation?