

**Question for written answer E-008146/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: EU budget and sterling exchange rate

A shortfall in the EU budget, estimated at as much as EUR 1.8 billion, looms as a result of the dramatic fall in the sterling exchange rate. The pound has lost over 13% of its value against the euro. As the UK's contribution to the EU budget (which operates in euros) is converted to pounds at the end of the previous year and then settled, an amount in the hundred millions is missing from the EU coffers each month. The 2016 budget totals some EUR 144 billion, so that the shortfall amounts to around 1.25% of the whole EU budget.

1. Although it is normal for exchange rate fluctuations to affect the EU budget due to the different currencies involved, so that in many years more money is received than was planned whilst in others the amount is lower, officials in charge of the budget have always managed to make up shortfalls by means of other revenues, something which is possible in the case of smaller contributions. How will the Commission balance a shortfall the size of this one?
2. Budget cuts are not a possibility, and the EU is not allowed to go into debt. Is the Commission considering a situation whereby other Member States would have to make up the shortfall with supplementary contributions?
3. Is the Commission considering the possibility of introducing a buffer into the calculation of contributions in order to prevent exchange rate fluctuations?