

**Question for written answer E-008875/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Statement by President Juncker on the constitutional referendum in Italy

On Sunday, 27 November 2016, *La Stampa* published an interview with the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, in which he stated: 'I don't know whether I would be helping Renzi by saying I would like the 'yes' vote to win; I will simply say that I would not like the 'no' vote to win'. Coming as it did just one week before the referendum, this statement could have lent considerable support to the 'yes' side.

The President of the Commission, as the representative of that institution, should act as guarantor for all the Member States and their internal balance. As such:

- can he explain his remarks;
- could he describe why he deemed it appropriate to express clearly partisan views;
- does he not feel he has acted, unduly, as a form of political ambassador?