

**Question for written answer E-009131/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: President Juncker's words on EU accounting standards

At the inaugural conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Institute of European Studies of the Catholic University of Louvain, Prime Minister Charles Michel stated that Eurostat's accounting standards were idiotic and that Jean-Claude Juncker had agreed with him when they discussed this.

Since my entry in office at the European Parliament I have been calling for a review of ESA 2010, as it is the imposition of these 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.

The Commission has shown practically no willingness to accept our position on this issue.

There is clearly a gulf between the Commission's statements and what Jean-Claude Juncker has been saying. So what is the Commission's real position?