

**Question for written answer E-001938/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Lack of public investment in Europe

The Commission's 'European Semester 2017' report on Belgium again stressed the lack of public investment, particularly in the education, energy and transport sectors, among others.

At a meeting of the Parliament of Wallonia on 9 December 2016, Philippe de Rougemont, a statistics monitor for Eurostat, told us that the balancing item which had been retained was B.9: net lending or borrowing. In his view this was an arbitrary decision, and a change to another balancing item was entirely plausible – for example, to B.8 (net saving).

This change in threshold might enable regions and local authorities to reinvest in infrastructure or the real economy, for example.

1. Will the Commission propose a review of the directive in order to consider changing the balancing item?
2. What objective reasons are there for keeping balancing item B.9?