

**Question for written answer E-004990/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: The Commission's responsibility for the budgetary situation in France

On 29 June 2017, the French Court of Auditors published an alarming report which estimated a budget shortfall of EUR 9 billion. Such a sum would have allowed France to abide by its budgetary commitments for the year. This shortfall could be as high as EUR 17 billion in 2018 as a result of increased expenditure planned under the former government.

EU law on budgetary surveillance is robust, in principle: from the Stability and Growth Pact to the Budget Treaty, and then to the 'six-pack' and the 'two-pack', the true state of public accounts should not be ignored by the Commission. Yet, in its spring 2017 recommendations, the Commission considered the budgetary situation in France to be showing signs of 'gradual improvement'.

1. Was the Commission aware of the issues highlighted in the report published by the French Court of Auditors?
2. If it was not, can it explain the reasons for its failure to detect the significant risk that the deficit would slip out of control at a time when France has been the subject of the stigmatising Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) since 2009?