

**Question for written answer E-007175/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Boosting public investment in Europe

A competitive and productive economy needs high quality public infrastructure: public transport, motorways, an education system, etc. that work well. It is therefore essential that countries make sufficient public investments.

However, in Europe, we see a low level of investment by public authorities, which is not without consequence. It affects the competitiveness of European countries.

This decrease in investments is linked to the establishment of European accounting standards and fiscal rules which are unsuitable.

The Commission tried to introduce some flexibility, notably through its 2015 communication. However, it is clear that this is not enough. In 2016, Finland was the only country to require all the flexibility criteria.

1. Does the Commission intend to review the mechanism and its criteria so that European countries can fully invest in the real economy?
2. Does the Commission intend to evaluate the way in which these standards are applied and the impact on investment by the authorities concerned?
3. Does the Commission intend to look into the possibility of offsetting part of these investments in the calculation of deficits and debt?