

**Question for written answer E-002906/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Statements by Commissioner Oettinger

During an interview with Deutsche Welle DW News on 29 May, the Commissioner for the Budget and financial programming, Mr Oettinger, said that adverse market developments would teach Italians how to vote.

Given recent developments linked to the failed attempt to form a government by Conte, the situation in Italy is very delicate.

Such inappropriate and offensive statements could also have an impact on the markets, altering perceptions and amplifying the signs of distrust vis-à-vis Italy.

Under Article 1 of the Italian Constitution, 'sovereignty belongs to the people'; Italy cannot accept interference from any person, least of all from someone in an institutional role.

In the light of the above,

- 1) Can the Commission clarify its position?
- 2) Does the Commission not consider such statements superficial and yet serious, offensive and dangerous, given their potential consequences – including a genuine risk of manipulating and distorting the markets which have already been somewhat jittery in recent days?
- 3) Does it consider Commissioner Oettinger still able to carry out his duties in light of Article 17(3) TEU?