Question for written answer E-004446/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Commission recommendation to slash EUR 5 billion from French pensions

According to Commission forecasts, France is not set to comply with the rules concerning debt in either 2018 or 2019. The level of public spending in France is the highest in the EU: 56% in 2018, which is 10.6% higher than the EU average. On 25 May 2018, the Commission recommended[1] that President Macron cut pensions:

‘A simpler and more efficient pension system would generate greater savings and help mitigate public finance sustainability risks in the medium term. According to a recent study, the alignment of different pension schemes in the public and private sectors would bring more than EUR 5 billion of public expenditure savings by 2022[2].’

1. What is this mysterious study that the Commission mentions but does not reference?

2. Knowing that Germany spent EUR 15 billion on welcoming migrants who arrived in 2015 – only 5% of whom work full-time[3] – does the Commission believe that EUR 5 billion should be cut from pensions to subsidise the young and inactive migrant population?

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1 More precisely, the Commission recommended that the Council make this recommendation to France.
2 https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/file_import/2018-european-semester-country-specific-recommendation-commission-recommendation-france-en.pdf, p.4.
3 EPRS study (2017): Integration of Refugees in Austria, Germany and Sweden.