

**Question for written answer E-000246/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: A worrying lack of transparency at the ECB

In a communication from 14 January 2019, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) affirmed that the European Central Bank (ECB) should allow full access to documents for audits relating to banking supervision¹.

The ECA has asked the EU's legislators to consider amending regulations in order to make it clear that the auditors are entitled to obtain any documents they deem necessary, and has cited three specific cases² where it was denied full disclosure: a Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) audit in 2016; a Single Resolution Board (SRB) audit in 2017, where ECB data could not be used in the SRB's special report; and a 2018 audit about the ECB's crisis management role in relation to banking supervision, where the ECB 'denied access to the documents needed to carry out the audit work as initially planned'³.

Is the Commission aware of this escalating conflict between two of the EU's foremost institutions and the fact that its root cause lies in the ECB's failure to provide full disclosure?

What is its view of the situation, and what steps is it taking or will it take to address this fundamental issue of accountability and transparency?

Does it have any plans to amend the relevant EU laws, namely Regulation 468/2014, Council Regulation 1024/2013, Directive 2014/59/EU and Regulation 806/2014?

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/PL19_ECB/PL19_ECB_EN.pdf

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-01-13/eu-auditors-up-ante-in-fight-with-ecb-over-access-to-documents>

³ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/News/NEWS1901_14/INPL19_ECB_EN.pdf