

**Question for written answer E-000587/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Recession in Italy

Italy's economy fell into recession in the last three months of 2018. There are number of reasons for this. The Italian deputy prime minister blames the EU rules regarding budget deficit. These rules have just recently led to a standoff between the Commission and the Italian Government. The standoff arose thanks to a proposed social welfare policy which would have placed the country in direct violation of the EU rules on budget management. The answer to the Italian economic slowdown is more spending, as the current coalition government has said. The Italian Government expects there will be a 2.4% deficit in 2019, the aim being to boost growth and offset the progressively deteriorating performance of the Italian economy.

What instruments are available to the Commission to assist Italy, with its third-largest economy status, in preventing a slide into deeper recession?

What steps is the Commission prepared to take in this case?