

**Question for written answer Z-000029/2014  
to the European Central Bank**  
Rule 131  
**Bernard Monot (NI)**

Subject: Asset-backed securities (ABS) purchase programme

On 4 September 2014 the ECB announced a programme for the purchase of asset-backed securities (ABS). Under this scheme banks will transfer to the ECB the risks they take when granting loans.

The ECB has specified that it will purchase only ‘simple and transparent’ products relating to securities with senior status (senior tranches). For mezzanine tranches it will do so only with the guarantee of the Member States, who will thus bear the risk of the highest-risk purchases.

Could the ECB please state what criteria it will use to assess whether the securities it purchases are ‘simple and transparent’? Could it give details of the types of guarantee that the Member States may be asked to give?