

**Question for written answer P-001676/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Peter van Dalen (ECR)

Subject: Approval of Italy's draft budget for 2019

Invoking the Government Information (Public Access) Act, Member of the Netherlands Parliament Pieter Omtzigt has secured access to the document in which the Commission explains how it made its assessment of Italy's draft budget for 2019. The document gives rise to many questions.

1. Can the Commission indicate whether, in examining that draft budget, it used its own calculations or whether it also made use of figures provided by the Italian Government?
2. Can the Commission identify precisely those components of the excessive deficit procedure on the basis of which Italy's draft budget for 2019 was finally approved after relatively limited adjustments, while the reduction of government debt in the draft budget is only very limited and the reduction in the deficit is being achieved by means of occasional measures rather than structural ones?
3. What is the Commission's comment on the sense of frustration felt by many people in the Netherlands and other countries whose public finances are in order, whereas a country such as Italy does not succeed in reducing its debt even during an economic upturn?

