

**Question for written answer Z-169/2015  
to the European Central Bank**

Rule 131

**Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Expansion of Public Sector Purchase Programme

The Governing Council of the European Central Bank is due to convene on 3 December to assess the progress of the Public Sector Purchase Programme and deliberate on the possible expansion thereof.

This specific quantitative easing programme was adopted almost one year ago, with the aim of easing the deflationary pressures in the euro area economies.

Unfortunately, however, results to date have been meagre, with inflation in the euro area remaining below 1 % since 2013 and sliding back into negative figures in September 2015, despite a brief recovery at the beginning of the year.

In view of this:

1. Does the ECB President intend to recommend to the Governing Council an extension of the programme for a further period, accompanied by the adoption of wider bond eligibility and other criteria with a view to addressing deflation more effectively?
2. Would he be in favour of stepping up European Investment Bank bond purchases so as to generate funding for projects and countries with a higher investment risk?
3. What view does he take of the relaxation of bond eligibility criteria so as to assist countries with significant growth prospects, such as Greece, which have not to date been included in the programme?