

**Question for written answer E-3891/2010
to the Council**
Rule 117
Stavros Lambrinidis (S&D)

Subject: US Senate legislative amendment and European support mechanism

The US Senate has recently adopted an amendment to the forthcoming financial reform bill which requires the US Government to vote against and block IMF support programmes if it considers it likely that the countries involved are unable to make the repayments.

The amendment directly targets the stability mechanism set up by successive decisions of the Member States of the eurozone on behalf of Greece and the other euro countries, which is primarily an attempt to support the common currency.

In this unstable climate, these US legislative proposals are a direct assault on the stated aim of transatlantic solidarity and cooperation as well as the stability of the Member States of the EU as a whole, and will cause further turbulence which will render any concerted European endeavour ineffective.

It will be recalled that the US Government does not hesitate to intervene diplomatically at all levels to put forward its views in matters which it considers affect fundamental American and transatlantic interests.

1. Has the Council exerted political and diplomatic pressure on the US Government and Congress to safeguard the European interests at stake, which are of the utmost importance, and, if not, does it intend to do so, and what practical measures has it taken or does it intend to take?
2. Has the Council conveyed to the US Government and Congress its profound displeasure at the possible impact of the Senate's amendment, and the continued discussion around it, on the stability of the euro and the eurozone economies on the world markets?
3. Has the Council considered the legal implications of the Senate's amendment and, in particular, the extent to which it may have binding force in relation to the international and contractual obligations of the US Government and its representatives in international bodies, such as the IMF, if the amendment remains part of the final text of the law?