

**Question for written answer E-008402/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: A European ratings agency

The current global economic crisis is hitting Europe hard, and Italian banks, along with those of other European countries, are undergoing a series of speculative attacks. These speculative manoeuvres are driven by the negative ratings meted out by the major ratings agencies.

As a result of the above situation, has the Commission ever considered creating a European ratings agency?

If not, does it intend to take steps in this regard?