

**Question for written answer E-000416/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
John Bufton (EFD)**

Subject: Stability and Growth Pact compliance

The following has been stated in connection with the 1997 Stability and Growth Pact:

‘All countries in the Eurozone should aim to keep their annual budget deficit below 3% of GDP, and keep total public debt below 60% of GDP. If a country broke the rules, it had to take measures to reduce its deficit. If it broke the rules in three consecutive years, the Commission could impose a fine of up to 0.5% of GDP.’

Will the Commission set out which Member States failed to meet this requirement over what periods of time, in particular highlighting those Member States which failed to meet the ‘three consecutive years’ criterion, and set out, in each case, what action it took in response?