

**Question for written answer E-000537/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
John Bufton (EFD)**

Subject: Taxpayers' money and speculation

The *Sunday Times* of 15 January 2012 quotes a trader as saying that: 'Every Eurozone country was more than happy to pay big fees for anything that could make its debt look smaller ... In every case we were taking future income streams and turning them into capital that was used to pay down debts. That's what's happening again in countries like Italy and Spain, which are back looking at privatisations and securitisations to help them out of the mess'.

Does the Commission plan to stop such practices in the future and would it accept that when Member States are condemning much trading activity as 'speculation', they have often been using taxpayers' money to pay for the very activity they condemn?