Question for written answer E-007535/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Philippe Lamberts (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Implementation of certain provisions (mitigating factors) of the Stability and Growth Pact as amended by the six-pack

1. How does the Commission apply the exclusion of interest expenditure, expenditure on Union programmes fully matched by Union funds revenue and non-discretionary changes in unemployment benefit expenditure which is foreseen in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1175/2011 in terms of assessment towards the medium-term budgetary objective? Can it provide a table comparing, for each Member State government, the levels of deficit/surplus before and after taking this provision into account and breaking down the difference in such a way as to single out the three items?

2. Does the Commission consider that the sudden and steep contraction of the eurozone economy and the sovereign debt crisis, the contagion effect, the succeeding waves of mandatory bank recapitalisation, etc., amount to an ‘unusual event outside the control of the Member States’ (Article 5 of the same regulation)? If so, how has the Commission addressed this in its recommendations for Council opinions on stability programmes? If not, what would the Commission consider to constitute such an event?

3. Does Article 2(3) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1177/2011 (concerning giving particular consideration to financial solidarity and support between Member States) mean that guarantees, paid-in capital in the case of the EFSFESM (or the EIB for instance) and other liabilities incurred for purposes of supporting Member States facing serious difficulties are not taken into account when calculating the general government deficit? What is its amount for each Member State?