

**Question for written answer E-001636/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Incorporation of the countries under adjustment programmes into the European Semester process

The European Semester is a very important process of dialogue and interaction at all levels of governance among and within EU Member States. It promotes democratic legitimacy, transparency, control of and accountability for national and European economic policies. It also increases accountability for the effectiveness of the recommendations and of the policies adopted and implemented, as well as their compatibility with EU policies and objectives.

Unfortunately, this process excludes Member States undergoing adjustment programmes implemented with EU and IMF financial support. Excluding these countries creates a clear distinction between Member States and makes the process unbalanced, since democratic debate on and control over the recommendations made by the Troika, the measures implemented and the outcomes of national policies are not possible.

In fact, the only recommendation issued to these countries in the context of the European Semester is to implement their adjustment programme. This reinforces the impression that citizens and parliaments have that policies implemented under adjustment programmes are 'imposed' or 'dictated' by the Troika with minimal democratic debate, and that they are adopted under pressure, often when receiving a delayed tranche of the loan depends on such policies being approved.

In the light of the above, the Commission is asked to answer the following:

Does it intend to propose that the Member States undergoing adjustment programmes are included in the European Semester?

Does it intend to provide analysis and recommendations based on the Annual Growth Survey and the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure 2013?