

**Question for written answer E-000092/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: The British economy and the eurozone

According to the Commission's autumn forecasts¹ for 2013-2015, the British economy, driven by domestic demand, is expected to grow by 1.3% this year and 2.2% the following year, thereby outperforming the strongest EU economies. Moreover, a study² by the Centre for Economics and Business Research estimates that the British economy will outgrow the German economy by 2030. In this context, the British economy³ is being further stimulated by earmarking GBP 5 billion for investments in infrastructure up to 2015 and GBP 4.6 billion annually for science and research. In addition, measures are being taken to ensure improved access for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), bolster export schemes and encourage investors, reduce corporate taxation, provide training schemes, maintain health care and education expenditure, support the housing market, etc.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission view these economic growth forecasts for Britain?
2. How does it view the fact that the British economy, despite being in a stage of fiscal adjustment, is achieving growth based on low corporate taxation policies, the protection of public investments and measures to maintain domestic demand, at a time when the eurozone countries are applying opposite policies without achieving this successful combination of fiscal adjustment and growth?
3. Can it draw any useful conclusions regarding the eurozone from the economic recovery policies adopted by Britain?

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/2013_autumn_forecast_en.htm

² <http://www.cebr.com/reports/world-economic-league-table-report/>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/achieving-strong-and-sustainable-economic-growth>