

**Question for written answer E-005121/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Cristiana Muscardini (ECR)**

Subject: Compulsive gambling, games of chance and taxation

Compulsive gambling is a scientifically recognised pathology which affects millions of European citizens every year, in particular at times of crisis in which families need money and which is leading people to spend all their savings in search of winnings, reducing entire family units to ruin. The Commission has not yet been able to clarify whether gambling does or does not fall within its prerogatives, given that gambling profits go to private companies or State monopolies, although the European Union does legislate on this matter, as demonstrated by the Fox report on online gambling.

The Commission is asked the following questions:

1. Can it identify which aspects of gambling legislation fall within EU jurisdiction?
2. Does it not consider that it should ask Member States to increase taxation on gambling to create a disincentive and apply the income thereby generated to discourage compulsive gambling?
3. Does it intend to formulate regulations, such as that introduced in the Lombardy Region, to ensure that slot machines and outlets where gambling is practiced are kept remote from sensitive areas?