Question for written answer E-001276/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Flexibility margins correlated to emergency immigration situation

Italy is contributing EUR 224.9 million to the EUR 3 billion in aid the EU has agreed to grant Turkey to help it manage the migrant situation. The Commission has meanwhile stated its position on national contributions being exempted from the deficit calculation for the purposes of the Stability and Growth Pact, as confirmed by Mr J.C. Juncker in the letter sent to the Italian Prime Minister Mr Renzi.

Italy has expended some EUR 3.3 billion, or 0.2 % of its GDP, on the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean. These monies have been used to provide over 250 000 people – men, women and children – with aid and bring some 330 human traffickers to justice.

Article 3 of the Fiscal Compact allows Member States to ‘temporarily deviate from their respective medium-term objective or the adjustment path towards it only in exceptional circumstances’, the latter being defined as ‘an unusual event [...] which has a major impact on the financial positions of the general government’.

Could the Commission explain what criterion it applies when assessing whether funds used for rescue missions and management of the migration problem may be exempted for the purposes of the Stability and Growth Pact?

What principles form the basis for any distinctions made concerning expenditure?