

**Question for written answer E-005542/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Assumptions about economic growth

18 August 2017 saw the Commission welcoming the growth figures for the euro area published by Eurostat: 'these figures are the final positive indicator which proves that growth in the EU and the euro area is solid'.

However, there is good reason to see this as just a fleeting respite. The growth is supported largely by a temporary drop in negative fiscal stimulus (as a result of the elections in France, in particular), interest rates which are abnormally low compared with nominal growth (this is not expected to continue when the changes to monetary policy are introduced in 2018), recovery in emerging countries and abnormally low oil prices. The feeble recovery we are seeing is also likely to be due to the rise in the euro exchange rate.

Does the Commission not think that its growth forecasts for the next few years are overly optimistic?