

**Question for written answer E-003148/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marco Zanni (ENF)

Subject: Article by an Italian member of the Commission's high-level group of experts on fake news

An article by the Italian journalist Federico Fubini – a member of the Commission's high-level group of experts on fake news – published on 8 June in the *Corriere della Sera*, on the alleged greater risk of Italian state securities as compared to Greek ones, has been repeated in numerous media publications, alarming investors and savers. However, the article contains false and misleading information.

The author mentions 'nine month treasury bills', claiming that yields on these alleged Italian state securities have exceeded those of Greek securities with the same maturity. However, as may easily be ascertained from the data available, what the journalist says is untrue, both because neither the Italian state nor the Greek state issues state securities with that maturity, and because a comparison of the yield curves of the two countries shows that the Italian state securities have never had yields greater than the Greek securities with the same maturity.

It should be stressed that the high-level group of experts was established to help combat the spread of fake news, and that the story which appeared is untrue.

Bearing the above points in mind:

- 1) Does the Commission not consider this article to be a classic example of fake news?
- 2) Does the Commission believe that this form of journalism is compatible with the role of a member of the high-level group of experts on fake news?
- 3) What actions does it intend to take concerning the journalist's participation in the high-level group of experts on fake news, to safeguard its credibility?