

**Question for written answer E-003099/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Conditions of the general safeguard clause provided for in the Stability and Growth Pact

On Friday 20 March, the Commission President announced that a general safeguard clause provided for in the Stability and Growth Pact would be triggered, temporarily suspending the EU-imposed obligations on Member States to reduce the public deficit. This would enable national governments to raise their public expenditure as much as necessary by implementing policies aimed at curbing the coronavirus pandemic and mitigating its economic and social impact. Although this measure of flexibility is necessary, it is still a cause of uncertainty for Member States and their institutions, given that it has not been established how long the suspension will last or what the effects of triggering it will be.

In order to be able to address the recovery plans and reduce the legal uncertainty arising from this decision, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to permanently revoke the Stability and Growth Pact?
2. Is not, what time frame for suspension is it considering?
3. Can it at least guarantee that the Stability and Growth Pact will be revoked until such a time as these recovery plans are fully implemented?