

Question for written answer E-004392/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Julie Lechanteux (ID)

Subject: Recovery plan for Europe in breach of the Treaties

The conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 17-21 July empowering the Commission 'to borrow funds on the capital markets on behalf of the Union up to the amount of EUR 750 billion in 2018 prices' are a genuine legal aberration.

The decision is void since the European Council is not competent to 'empower' the Commission to breach the relevant rules laid down in the Treaties and the Financial Regulation.

In particular, under the principle of a balanced budget enshrined in Article 310 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), '[t]he revenue and expenditure shown in the budget shall be in balance', and under Article 17 of the Financial Regulation, '[t]he Union and the Union bodies referred to in Articles 70 and 71 shall not raise loans within the framework of the budget'.

Furthermore, under the principle of budgetary autonomy laid down in Article 311 of the TFEU, '[w]ithout prejudice to other revenue, the budget shall be financed wholly from own resources'.

Does the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, intend to endorse this flagrant breach of the rules or will it initiate an interinstitutional dispute?