

**Question for written answer E-004633/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Realignment of macroeconomic indicators - public debt and discrepancies between actual individual consumption and per capita GDP

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, public debt in EU Member States has continued to grow. In certain Member States, this has for some time been an underlying trend and is not just the consequence of the crisis caused by the pandemic.

In the first quarter of 2020, public debt rose in 10 Member States, fell in 16 and remained the same in one, compared to the same period in 2019. Romania is the EU Member State with the second-largest increase in public debt (3.6%) between the two periods in question.

At the same time, there are significant discrepancies between actual individual consumption and per capita GDP. In 2019, for example, actual individual consumption in Romania was 79 % and per capita GDP was 69 % of the EU average, making it the EU Member State with the largest imbalance in this respect after Lithuania. In most Member States, including other relative newcomers such as Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, the ratio is inverse.

In view of this, what measures are being envisaged by the Commission to realign these indicators and prevent the macroeconomic imbalance from tilting any further in Romania and other Member States affected by these adverse trends?