

**Question for written answer E-001280/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Anna Bonfrisco (ID), Valentino Grant (ID)

Subject: Compensation to the Italian State for serious legal mistake made by Commission in 2015

On 2 March 2021, the Court of Justice of the European Union confirmed that it was a mistake for the Commission's Directorate-General for Competition (led at the time by Margrethe Vestager) to classify as state aid the help given by the Interbank Deposit Protection Fund (FITD) to struggling Italian banks in 2014.

The FITD has now been rightly recognised as what it is – a 'mutual consortium of banks governed by private law' – and it has been acknowledged that its measures cannot be imputable to the Italian State.

This legal mistake has cost Italy dearly. Some of its banks have gone bankrupt, it has 'bailed in' others (Carichieti, Etruria, Banca Marche, Cassa Ferrara and Banca Tercas), and it has liquidated Banca Popolare di Vicenza e Veneto to make it possible to sell its healthy parts for EUR 1.00 to Intesa San Paolo. Overall, the Commission's mistake cost the Italian State in excess of EUR 10 billion, not including the human costs incurred by people unfairly deprived of a lifetime of sacrifices and work.

What measures will be taken to compensate the Italian State in the wake of this very serious mistake?