

**Question for written answer E-005491/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)

Subject: Economic growth forecasts for Spain and Italy in 2021

On 11 November 2021, as part of its autumn economic forecast, the Commission lowered its GDP growth estimate for Spain in 2021 from 6.2% to 4.6%¹.

Conversely, it has estimated that Italy's GDP will grow by 6.2% in 2021 and return to pre-pandemic levels in spring 2022². Spain's GDP levels, meanwhile, may not recover until the second quarter of 2023, a year later than Italy's.

Spain and Italy are both euro area economies which depend heavily on tourism and were hit hard by the first COVID-19 wave that began in March 2020. They will also receive similar amounts of Next Generation EU funding. However, the divergence between their economic forecasts is striking.

In addition to the slump in investment in Spain and the upswing in Italy, what other factors does the Commission believe have played a part in the opening up of this chasm?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-performance-country/spain/economic-forecast-spain_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-performance-country/italy/economic-forecast-italy_en