

**Question for oral answer O-000155/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Stepping up anti-corruption measures

There is a great sense of urgency, given the serious corrosive impact of corruption on Member States' financial resources, the economic integrity of the markets and the trust of citizens in their governments.

1. Does the Commission agree that combating corruption in EU Member States is a key concern? Accordingly, does the Commission agree that such urgency demands much swifter adoption of a first EU Anti-Corruption Report, bringing it forward to 2012 instead of 2013?
2. The communication clearly states that there is a lack of political will among Member States to fight corruption. There are even some EU Member States which have not signed the UN Convention against Corruption and other legally binding international anti-corruption instruments. Is the Commission prepared to submit to the Council draft conclusions expressing the political will to make the fight against corruption a top priority for the Council, and urging Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the remaining international instruments forthwith?
3. There are some EU Member States with urgent problems, such as Greece, Portugal and Ireland, which, especially in view of the IMF and EU financial support, have come under extreme pressure to cut back costs and privatise public goods and services. Corruption during these processes will certainly not help mitigate any problems and needs to be countered. The Commission's intention to revitalise the EU contact-point network against corruption (EACN) is welcome. Does the Commission agree that this network can play a vital role in helping countries which are facing serious challenges with regard to corruption? Is the Commission prepared to set up 'flying squads', with the help of the network, for countries such as Greece which are facing a serious debt crisis and have tax collection problems?

Tabled: 20.6.2011

Forwarded: 22.6.2011

Deadline for reply: 29.6.2011