

**Question for oral answer O-000194/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 115

**Sonia Alfano, Renate Weber, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Jan Mulder, Louis Michel, Nathalie Griesbeck, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Nadja Hirsch, Stanimir Ilchev, Jens Rohde**

on behalf of the ALDE Group

Subject: Closing the gap between anti-corruption law and reality

On 6 June 2011 the Commission adopted a package of measures to fight corruption in the EU, which amounts to an estimated 1% of the EU GDP (EUR 120 billion annually) and has serious negative and distorting effects on the EU and Member States' economies and finances, competition and the internal market and on trust in the democratic institutions and political leadership. The anti-corruption package includes: 1. a Communication on fighting corruption in the EU, which states that the implementation of the anti-corruption legal framework is uneven and unsatisfactory, that enforcement is insufficient and that there is a lack of firm political commitment to combat corruption; it proposes the creation of a new monitoring mechanism, the biannual EU Anti-Corruption Report to be drafted by the Commission, and a stronger focus on corruption in all relevant EU policies; 2. a Decision establishing the EU anti-corruption reporting mechanism, with the first report to be published in 2013 and then biannually; 3. a report on the implementation of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA on combating corruption in the private sector, which reveals that transposition by Member States is still unsatisfactory; 4. a report on the modalities of EU participation in the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

While welcoming such initiatives, which demonstrate the Commission's intention to strengthen EU action on corruption but are not of legislative nature, can the Commission indicate:

- how it will ensure that European and international legislation already in place is applied fully, correctly and effectively by all Member States and, if necessary, strengthened?
- what new legislative initiatives it will take to make sure that corruption is effectively fought by all Member States through stronger sanctions and actions?
- whether it intends to propose, on the basis of Article 83(1) TFEU, minimum rules on the definition of corruption, conflict of interest and associated penalties, given the cross-border impact of corruption and its consequences for the internal market?
- whether it proposes strengthening transparency, which is an effective means of fighting corruption, and how?
- whether it intends to involve Parliament in these efforts, and how?

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Forwarded: 9.9.2011

Deadline for reply: 16.9.2011