

**Question for oral answer O-000067/2015  
to the Council**

Rule 128

**Burkhard Balz, Alain Lamassoure, Pablo Zalba Bidegain**

on behalf of the PPE Group

**Sylvie Goulard, Sophia in 't Veld, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Nils Torvalds, Petr Ježek, Philippe De Backer, Michael Theurer**

on behalf of the ALDE Group

Subject: Transparency of the application of the Stability and Growth Pact

*It is important for the credibility of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), notably Regulations (EC) No 1466/97 and No 1467/97, that the application of its rules is transparent, consistent and fair across Member States, timely and based on sound economic analysis.*

1. Can the Council explain on which economic assessments it bases its decision to adopt Council recommendations in the framework of the Stability and Growth Pact?
2. Can it explain on which economic assessment it has based its decision to adopt Council recommendation 6704/15 of 5 March 2015 with a view to bringing an end to the excessive government deficit in France?
3. Does it agree that making public Commission economic analyses in the framework of the application of the SGP would strengthen trust in the rules? Does it agree that independent economic analysis within the Commission should be strengthened to provide an additional and independent evaluation of the application of the rules?
4. Does it consider that Communication COM(2015)0012 on making the best use of flexibility within the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, which the Commission has used in interpreting the application of the rules, is in all parts, particularly with regard to the treatment of major structural reforms under the preventive and corrective arms of the Pact, fully legally compatible with the rules of the SGP and its Code of Conduct, and if not, why not?

Tabled: 3.6.2015

Forwarded: 4.6.2015

Deadline for reply: 25.6.2015