

Question for written answer P-002996/2012
to the Council
Rule 117
Miguel Portas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union

Under the newly adopted intergovernmental treaty a limit is to be applied to the structural balance, that is to say, the net balance of one-off and temporary measures. As the Council knows, this concept, its definition, and the methods for calculating it are the subject of major academic dispute in the economic debate, for this is undoubtedly a highly political issue. The concept of structural balance is not derived directly from national accounting standards. That being the case, and given that an economic governance criterion clearly needs to apply equally to all Member States:

1. Has the methodology to be used to calculate this indicator already been laid down?
2. How will this be translated into legal terms and which institution will be responsible for the decision?
3. According to what criteria are measures deemed to be 'one-off' and 'temporary'?