

**Question for written answer P-001110/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Aldo Patriciello (PPE)

Subject: Anti-corruption report: the situation in Italy

The first Commission report on corruption in the Member States was published on 3 February 2014. The report, based on a study produced by PricewaterhouseCooper for the EU's anti-fraud office, OLAF, was presented in Brussels by the Commissioner with responsibility for home affairs, Cecilia Malmström.

Corruption saps public confidence in democratic institutions and the rule of law, has a damaging effect on the EU economy and deprives Member States of much-needed tax revenue.

As stated in the Commission report, the annual cost to the European economy stands at some EUR 120 billion. The situation is particularly alarming in Italy, despite the adoption of an 'anti-corruption act' in November 2012 and the other efforts the country has made in this area.

Italy in fact accounts for more than half of the EUR 120 million lost to corruption each year.

The Eurobarometer survey attached to the report shows that more than three-quarters of Europeans (76%) – and as many as 97% of Italians – think that corruption is widespread.

In view of this situation, will the Commission look into the idea of putting forward a new initiative encouraging the Member States to standardise anti-corruption laws and thus ensure equal opportunities in all the Member States?