Question for written answer P-000778/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Commission pressure during the debate on the 2016 Portuguese state budget

Commission experts have reportedly just arrived in Lisbon in order, as the Economic and Financial Affairs Commissioner put it, to negotiate a state budget in line with European rules and the commitments that Portugal has entered into.

The Commissioner has also said that the Commission’s recent letter to the Portuguese Finance Minister has led to clarifications and further commitments which have averted the need for the Commission to ask for a new draft budget.

What is happening in this case plainly amounts to open interference and unacceptable pressure intended to derail and influence the institutional dialogue being carried on by the forces represented in the Portuguese Parliament, which are together considering the budget on the basis of the joint positions agreed at the time of formation of the new Portuguese Government.

1. What clarifications and/or commitments is the Commission aiming to obtain from the Portuguese Government and which particular measures does it wish to be included in the draft state budget?

2. Are any of those commitments intended to reverse or block measures to ensure social justice or restore rights, salaries, and income as provided for in the joint positions agreed by Portuguese political parties, not least the PCP and the PS?