

**Priority question for written answer P-004429/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Recovery plan for Europe: a boost for federalism

On 21 July, an EU summit fine-tuned a EUR 750 billion recovery plan to repair the damage from the economic crisis caused by the EU's unpreparedness to handle the COVID-19 health crisis.

These measures were lauded as historic, and indeed they are, as it is the first time that the EU Member States will incur a shared debt, taken out in the name of the Commission, which will keep a tight rein on the way in which money is spent.

Two outstanding issues are causing concern at the highest level: the increase in own resources to finance this debt, and the attachment of conditions concerning respect for the rule of law to the aid.

1. Can the Commission provide assurances that no direct tax will ever be levied on European citizens to repay this tremendous debt?
2. Can it provide assurances that the rule of law mechanism will not infringe upon nations' freedom of choice and sovereignty over their societal models, and that it will not impose conditions demanding the abolition of laws it deems counterproductive to its idea of progress?