Question for written answer E-015118/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bronis Ropė (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Sanctions against Member States for violations of budgetary discipline

The so-called 'Two Pack' (Regulations 472/2013 and 473/2013), which entered into force in May 2013, obliges the Commission to evaluate the compliance of the Member States' draft budgets with the targets of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) and the European Semester recommendations and to initiate sanctions for failure to uphold them.

The Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (TSCG), which regulates this issue, is an intergovernmental agreement which gives the Commission the role of providing an expert analysis of national budgets. However, the sanctions that can be imposed for violations, as set out in the TSCG and related laws, are not defined clearly enough. In this connection, what is the scope of sanctions that can be imposed on Member States participating in the TSCG whose budget laws, in the Commission's opinion, diverge significantly from SGP targets and European Semester recommendations? My question refers in particular to Lithuania, whose draft budget received a negative evaluation from the Commission in November 2015.

How does the Commission define the modalities of the concept of 'special cases' provided for by the TSCG, under which a Member State is permitted to avoid the application of the corrective mechanisms?