

Question for written answer E-015847/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bernard Monot (ENF)

Subject: Duty of discretion of EU Commissioners

In an interview published on 15 December 2015 on the website of the French newspaper *Les Échos*, the Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Pierre Moscovici, referred at length to the results of the regional elections in France and also to the 2017 presidential election, stating that he did 'not want' Marine Le Pen to feature in the second round of that election. He expressed concern about the 'populist' movement, speaking about the political situation in several EU countries, and called France's biggest party, the National Front, not only 'anti-European' but also an 'extreme right-wing and xenophobic party'.

However, on 26 October 2015 Mr Moscovici had declined to answer a question on the *Le Point* website about the vote for the National Front, saying, 'as an EU Commissioner I have a duty of discretion when it comes to national issues'.

Can the Commission explain how it defines the Commissioners' duty of discretion and whether, in this connection, it intends to take action against defamatory statements made about national political parties?