

Question for written answer E-015264/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Frédérique Ries (ALDE)

Subject: The impact of aid and exceptional measures in relation to balancing the budget

On Wednesday 25 November 2015, when it adopted the European Union budget, having reached agreement with the Council on the morning of 14 November, Parliament approved commitment appropriations of EUR 155 billion and payment appropriations of EUR 143.9 billion.

However, given the outcome of the EU-Turkey summit on 29 November 2015 and the fact that EUR 3 billion is being allocated to NGOs working with migrants in Turkey, it is fair to ask whether spending has not already exceeded the levels provided for in the 2016 budget.

Can the Commission state precisely how it intends to balance the budget in 2016? Does it agree that adjustments to the 2016 budget are warranted by the granting of the above-mentioned exceptional aid?

On a separate public-finance issue, will the Commission – which is responsible, as guardian of the Treaties, for compliance with the ‘golden rule’ of budgeting – reject any national budgets that exceed the agreed annual deficit limit of 3% of GDP? Or will it be minded to accept overspending as the price of adjustment to a new situation following the latest terrorist attacks?