

**Question for written answer E-005443/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Preventing corruption and promoting transparency in the context of recovery plan funds

According to Eurostat figures<sup>1</sup>, EU economies are officially entering a recession in 2020. Portugal is particularly badly affected. The recovery plan ('Next Generation EU') will be instrumental to economies' recovery and to protecting businesses. It is important that Member States distribute funds quickly and intelligently, ensuring that support reaches the real economy as soon as possible.

A number of Member States are taking the lead in efforts to streamline the implementation of these funds. But this speed must be balanced with high transparency, competition and anti-corruption standards.

In Portugal, the government's draft law<sup>2</sup> seeking to change the rules on public procurement was roundly criticised by the Portuguese Court of Auditors in a recently published opinion<sup>3</sup>.

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1. What is the Commission's view on the Portuguese Government's proposal, taking into account the European public procurement regime and the warnings from the Portuguese Court of Auditors? Specifically, does it believe that the proposal meets both Portugal's duty to transpose directives and the principle of competition?
2. What mechanisms could be used at EU level to prevent and detect cases of corruption, or other crimes, such as those highlighted by the Portuguese Court of Auditors, in the disbursement of the recovery funds?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/10545471/2-08092020-AP-EN.pdf/43764613-3547-2e40-7a24-d20c30a20f64>

<sup>2</sup> <https://app.parlamento.pt/webutils/docs/doc.pdf?path=6148523063446f764c324679595842774f6a63334e7a637664326c756157357059326c6864476c3259584d7657456c574c33526c6548527663793977634777304d533159535659755a47396a&fich=pl41-XIV.doc&Inline=true>

<sup>3</sup> <https://app.parlamento.pt/webutils/docs/doc.pdf?path=6148523063446f764c324679626d56304c334e706447567a4c31684a566b786c5a793944543030764e6b4e46535539515343394562324e31625756756447397a5357357059326c6864476c3259554e7662576c7a633246764c324d77595446684f5755304c5749344f4459744e4441794e5331694f54517a4c5449324e44646a4f5749334d7a67305a6935775a47593d&fich=c0a1a9e4-b886-4025-b943-2647c9b7384f.pdf&Inline=true>