

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Reasons the EC is changing from a target of a positive fiscal stance to a target of a neutral one.

In its Recommendation for a Council recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area COM (2017) 770 final, the European Commission calls the Members States to “aim at a broadly neutral fiscal stance at the aggregate level for the Euro Area”. This proposal lacks of the ambition and detail of last’s year communication towards a positive fiscal stance for the euro area.

What are the reasons behind the change from a target of a positive fiscal stance -as defined in its last year's communication towards a positive fiscal stance for the euro area COM(2016) 727- to a target of a neutral stance as defined this year?

What are the reasons for the Commission to propose a neutral fiscal stance in a context of negative output gap?

Why the Commission is not entering into detail of the changes needed in economic policies of specific countries and economic sectors to ensure the desired fiscal stance, as done last year?