

**Question for written answer E-004822/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Antonio Tajani (PPE)**

Subject: Monte dei Paschi di Siena

In 2017, the Italian Government, with the intervention of the European Central Bank and the European Banking Authority, rescued the bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena (MPS) with an investment of EUR 5.4 billion, thus becoming the bank's top shareholder with a majority stake of 64%. The deadline for the state's exit from MPS was set by the Commission for 31 December 2021.

At the end of July 2021 Unicredit had begun certain procedures with a view to purchasing some MPS assets as part of negotiations which were called off on 24 October. The requests made by Unicredit would have imposed a burden on the Italian Government of between EUR 7 and 8 billion and put 7000 jobs at risk.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission extend the deadline of 31 December 2021 to allow for market solutions that safeguard the brand name of Italy's fourth largest bank as well as employment levels and Italians' savings?
2. What measures does it intend to take to promote banks that have close links to their territory, in order to protect households, businesses and the real economy?