

**Question for written answer E-005836/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Funding for research and development;

Since the Troika's intervention, Portugal has drastically reduced funding for higher education institutions in general and research units and associated laboratories in particular. As a direct result of these cutbacks, countless research projects have been discontinued and hundreds of researchers have left the country, thereby jeopardising decades of accumulated work, as well as the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy goals.

The Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology has completed the first phase of its assessment of all the country's research units and associated laboratories with a view to their funding for the 2015-2020 period. This has clearly demonstrated the impact on these units of the cuts. The preliminary results show that 22% of units are left with no funding, while 26% , classified only as 'good' are guaranteed only residual funding barely adequate to cover their administrative costs.

How does the Commission view the way in which the May 2011 memorandum of understanding with the Troika has been applied in Portugal in relation to research and development activities?

How does the Commission intend to make austerity policies compatible with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and Portugal's need to guarantee basic conditions for its economic growth?