

**Question for written answer E-007073/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Cuts in scientific research, technological development and innovation (R&D+i)

One of the main objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to increase investment in R&D to 3% of GDP by 2020. Regrettably, the austerity policies issuing from the Community authorities and accepted without debate by the current Spanish Government have resulted in a 30% cut in the public budget in this area.

This has meant that, in 2012 alone, the number of people working in R&D in Spain shrank by over 6 000 and spending on R&D as a percentage of GDP has dropped by 4.5%. The situation has prompted action to oppose cuts in this field, spearheaded by the Charter for Science (Carta por la Ciencia) movement and resulting in the parliamentary agreement adopted in December 2013 by all the political groups in Spain's parliament except the People's Party.

Does the Commission consider the Spanish Government's cutbacks in R&D compatible with achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy? Is the Commission concerned by Spain's retreat in this field and the impact of this in reducing its technological competitiveness?