

**Question for written answer E-007520/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: PRIMA initiative

Strengthening research and innovation in areas such as the efficiency and sustainability of food chains and water resources helps to promote the agenda of the Euro-Mediterranean Association.

This initiative has received wide political support. The Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation, held in Barcelona in 2012, showed that there was support for cooperation in this field through a lasting and stable coordination mechanism. This support was confirmed by the Competitiveness Council held in Nicosia in 2012.

Since then, a group of Member States and Mediterranean partner countries have worked on drafting a concrete proposal for a joint programme, called PRIMA.

The informal Competitiveness Council in Athens found that the technical work completed was already mature enough for a formal proposal for a joint programme to be drawn up. Since then, progress has been made on the technical details of the proposal, as well as its scientific programme and management structure and in obtaining indicative funding commitments from the participating states.

Does the Commission consider that the technical work carried out by PRIMA is sufficiently mature to warrant immediate consideration of the proposal for a public-public partnership for the Mediterranean, pursuant to Article 185 of the Treaty?