

**Question for written answer E-007521/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Priorities in R&D+i

It is a priority of the Europe 2020 strategy to develop a knowledge and innovation-based economy. To achieve this, it aims to increase investment in research and development to 3% of GDP by 2020. Regrettably, austerity policies make it doubtful that this objective will be achieved, particularly in the case of bailed-out countries.

Spain is a case in point. In the last three years, the state budget for R&D has been cut by 30%. This has meant that in 2012 alone, the number of persons working in R&D has fallen by over 6 000 and research as a percentage of GDP has fallen by 4.5%.

What measures will the Commission introduce to correct current cutbacks and promote compliance with Europe 2020 commitments in this field?

In the context of this commitment to R&D, the European Institute of Technology & Innovation plays a central role as a key institution for promoting interaction amongst universities, enterprises and research centres: the triple helix of knowledge. What approach and initiatives will the Commission promote in order to strengthen this body?