Question for written answer E-000988/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Siôn Simon (S&D)

Subject: Funding cuts for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and the European Research Council

1. Could the Commission state what assessment, if any, was undertaken of the impact on return on investment before announcing the Commission's proposals to cut the budgets of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the European Research Council (ERC) as part of the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)?

The proposed cuts disproportionally affect the EIT relative to the other Horizon 2020 instruments, thereby changing the funding environment for businesses that are successfully investing via public-private collaboration and innovating in the field. A number of particularly good examples of innovation supported by the use of these funds can be found in my region of the West Midlands (UK).

- 2. With this in mind, is this decision consistent with President Juncker's plans to create a new innovative economy within the EU which attracts large levels of private investment?
- 3. Does the new Commission still value the Horizon 2020 programme?

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