

**Question for written answer E-001170/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Horizon 2020 budget partially diverted to European Fund for Strategic Investment

In the legislative proposal presented by the Commission (Nos 1291/2013 and 1316/2013) regarding the creation of the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), it is stated that this fund will be partially financed from the Horizon 2020 envelope, referring to the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation in its role as a major funding programme for universities and research centres across Europe, allocating some EUR 80 billion over the period 2014-2020.

It is stated in the proposal that while Horizon 2020 serves a purpose that is 'not replicated by the EFSI', nonetheless 'the reduction of both programmes to finance the guarantee fund is expected to ensure a greater investment in certain areas of their respective mandates than is possible through the existing programmes'.

While the creation of a European Fund for Strategic Investment is very much to be recommended, the Commission is nevertheless asked to provide a detailed economic impact analysis to justify the benefits of a reduction estimated at EUR 2.7 billion.

What measures will the Commission take to avoid: a) a negative impact on the European Research Council (ERC); b) jeopardising the support available to early career-researchers; c) damaging access to research infrastructures?