

**Question for written answer E-004042/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Problems with Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)

The Commission is currently investing EUR 2.6 billion in medical research under the Innovative Medicines Initiative, to which universities and pharmaceutical companies are also contributing.

1. While the total IMI budget and EU contributions are being disclosed, information regarding costs met by the pharmaceutical companies is being withheld, even from the European Court of Auditors, despite the fact that its principal task is to ensure transparency regarding EU-funded projects. Assuming that the Commission does not question this, will it take action in the next few weeks to ensure transparency regarding contributions by individual pharmaceutical companies to IMI projects?
2. Does the Commission recognise that there is a danger of public research institutes confining their IMI activities to diseases and medicines that generate massive profits for major pharmaceutical companies, rather than continuing to carry out research as efficiently as possible in the public interest?
3. While discoveries made in the course of most EU research projects automatically become the intellectual property of those making them, discoveries by public institutions in the course of IMI research are frequently patented by the pharmaceutical companies. Is the Commission prepared to review this situation so as to ensure that researchers at public institutions are automatically entitled to intellectual ownership of their innovations?