

**Question for written answer E-008032/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Stagnation of the ability of the European Union to innovate in the private sector

On 7 May, the European Commission presented the 2015 edition of the innovation scoreboard.

The performance of the EU as regards innovation is less than satisfactory, as the main conclusion is that 'EU performance as a whole in innovation has stagnated'.

In general, the number of innovative companies is down, as is investment in venture capital, SME innovation, patent applications, the export of high-tech goods and the sale of innovative products.

1. What is the Commission's analysis of this disturbing state of affairs in terms of economic dynamism and therefore growth?
2. What initiative does it intend introducing in order to develop the innovation capacity of the private sector within the EU?