Question for written answer E-008863/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE), Javier Nart (ALDE) and Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal (ALDE)

Subject: European R&D policy

The Treaty of Lisbon established the goal of allocating 3% of gross domestic product (GDP), averaged across the EU Member States, for research and development (R&D) investment. However, each EU Member State decides how to invest its public resources in R&D, leading to very uneven investment across the various countries. This is highly damaging for a sector requiring sustained, stable and long-term investment. Spain, for example, invests 1.24% of GDP annually, which puts it at the lower end of the European average and abysmally far from the countries that continue to lead the way in R&D investment: Finland (over 3%), Germany (2.94%) and Austria (2.81%).

Furthermore, national differences create inequality in opportunities to access European research programmes and subsidies, since the best-prepared countries that invest more in R&D have more chance of being awarded competitive EU subsidies.

What steps will be taken to minimise and adjust for investment differences between Member States, and to develop a European R&D policy that ensures sustained, stable and long-term investment?