

**Question for written answer E-012166/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: Human Brain Project

In 2013, the Human Brain Project acquired the status of a flagship project of European science; despite that fact, hundreds of scientists have since expressed their dissatisfaction with the direction which it has taken and with its management. According to project staff, not only were there substantive differences of opinion but organisational mistakes were also made, and decision-making procedures were not transparent. As a consequence, it is intended that the project should no longer be carried out by a single institution but be divided among various partners.

1. How will the Commission ensure that, in future, major scientific projects do not encounter similar problems?
2. How will the Commission bridge the gap between scientific autonomy and monitoring the desired progress, which must be achieved when a billion euros' worth of funding has been pledged?

What is the Commission's assessment of the scope for the project to produce pioneering scientific results, in view of its hitherto modest scientific added value and the lack of confidence in the project managers?