

**Question for written answer E-013556/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Siôn Simon (S&D)

Subject: European Space Agency

In reference to Article 189 (3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which states that 'The Union shall establish any appropriate relations with the European Space Agency', the 2014 Progress report on establishing appropriate relations between the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) sets out potential arrangements that seek to reduce the structural issues between the two institutions. Based on the conclusions of the aforementioned report and the subsequent decision made at the ESA's Council meeting in 2014 on the evolution of the Agency, the option to incorporate the ESA as an agency of the EU seems to have been rejected, because the Member States would prefer to keep 'the ESA as an independent, world-class intergovernmental organisation'.

Hence, the structural relations between the EU and the ESA still pose a barrier to an effective space policy.

Can the Commission confirm that it does not wish to pursue making the ESA an agency of the EU?

And, in concrete terms, what is the Commission currently doing to create a better, more coordinated space policy between the Commission's space policy and the ESA?