

**Question for written answer E-016010/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE)

Subject: Plans for the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency

The European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (European GNSS Agency) is responsible for the promotion of services developed by Europe's satellite systems – in particular, those associated with the Galileo navigation satellite system – and for liaising with potential customers. Its role is crucial to securing a position for this European project on the international stage, since the economic success of Galileo will depend on widespread awareness of its existence and its capabilities.

However, reading reports and comparing annual budgets makes it clear that, despite an increase in the agency's budget, from around EUR 13 million in 2013 to EUR 26 million in 2015, the number of employees only increased from 112 to 134. The scope of its responsibilities was also significantly broadened in 2014, as the agency took over responsibilities associated with the use of EGNOS services and early Galileo services. However, in 2015 the agency's recruitment plans were reduced, causing it to resort to contracting more expensive external consulting firms. It is therefore likely that the range of the EU agency's responsibilities will exceed its capabilities.

1. In this connection, what are the Commission's plans as regards recruitment for this Prague-based agency?
2. Are there plans to transfer some of the agency's responsibilities to other institutions or to create centres in other countries to carry out the task of promoting Galileo services?