

**Question for written answer E-003334/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Damning report on the European Institute for Innovation and Technology

The European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) was established as an answer to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US. The European Court of Auditors' damning report published on 14 April 2016¹ shows, however, that the EIT falls far short of its US counterpart.

The EIT was designed on the basis of old European formulas. It has inflexible structures far removed from the realities faced by businesses, but also by researchers. Financial backing, in particular, leaves something to be desired. The EIT is viewed as a Commission showpiece. Regrettably, the organisation is too dependent on its Commission paymaster, as a result of which businesses quickly walk away. Staff turnover is high, in addition, and the institute is unable to deliver innovation

The Court of Auditors' report makes a number of recommendations to get the EIT back on track.

1. Does the Commission anticipate putting forward a revamped structure, on the basis of the Court of Auditors' recommendations, with greater independence for the EIT?
2. How does the EIT propose to make financial backing more market-oriented?
3. Why has the Commission itself failed to intervene promptly, as a result of which it is now having its knuckles rapped by the Court of Auditors?

¹ <http://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=35819>