

**Question for written answer E-004744/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)**

Subject: Impact of EFSI on research and innovation in the EU

On 1 June 2016, the Commission presented the first results of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in a communication<sup>1</sup>. The funding of the investment plan is mostly being taken from Horizon 2020. The programme which supports research and innovation in the EU has had to surrender EUR 2.2 billion to EFSI.

It has been asserted that these funds will in any case be channelled back to the world of research through EFSI. The Commission has claimed that fundamental research has been spared, because the first pillar of Horizon 2020 has been retained. It has mainly been the second and third pillars that were affected by the reductions in funding. But within these pillars too, there is scope for fundamental research.

The first interim assessment of 1 June indicates that only 10% of EFSI funding is allocated to research and innovation (R&I). Yet nearly half of the budget for EFSI comes from Horizon 2020. The big payments are going to infrastructure projects, while R&I lags far behind.

1. How much funding from EFSI is used for fundamental research?
2. How will the Commission ensure that EFSI is used more for research and development?

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016) 359 final.