

**Question for written answer E-009596/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Risks to fundamental research arising from payments being made conditional on results

The Commission is planning a trial of a scheme whereby Horizon 2020 payments would be made conditional on results. It goes without saying that this model cannot be applied in the first pillar of Horizon 2020. The possible introduction of this funding model in the second and third pillars also entails risks: 1) publicly funded bodies cannot participate in projects in which they run the risk of not having their costs refunded if the anticipated results are not attained; without the requisite guarantees, such a model *de facto* prevents intersectoral cooperation on 'collaborative research' projects in the second and third pillars; 2) this 'output-based' model compels participants to run fewer risks, because in the event of failure they run the risk of not receiving any funding.

What safeguards will the Commission incorporate in order to avoid putting undue pressure on research and innovation activities in the lower and medium TRLs?

How will the Commission ensure that implementation of the result-based model does not make the Framework Programme risk-averse and thus bring about a situation in which it supports fewer disruptive innovations?