

**Question for written answer E-000744/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Werner Langen (PPE)**

Subject: Horizon 2020 - small and specialised research institutes are placed at a disadvantage

Calls for applications under the Horizon 2020 programme are too general in nature, with the result that a very high number of very different research bodies are able to apply. This means on the one hand that small and specialised institutes find it more difficult to submit applications, and on the other hand that scientists cannot properly assess the chances of a successful application.

In a letter of 16 November 2016 to the Member of the German Bundestag Ms Groden-Kranich, Mr Moedas wrote that the services responsible are currently investigating how the requirements for the submission of proposals can be improved through clearer wording and improved legibility.

1. What is the Commission's view of this criticism, and what action does it propose in order to resolve the problem?
2. Why has this problem not been tackled before, and how exactly will the Commission investigate it?
3. What additional support measures are planned for SMEs in the future?