

**Question for written answer E-001057/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Use of Horizon 2020 by Member States which joined the EU in or after 2004

Horizon 2020 is the largest science and innovation research programme in the history of the EU. Within three years of its establishment we were seeing an increase in breakthrough achievements and discoveries and the transfer of innovative ideas from the laboratory to the market. European innovations contribute to improving quality of life and boosting industrial competitiveness and environmental protection.

Sadly, however, little use is made of the opportunities provided by Horizon 2020. Countries which joined the EU in or after 2004 benefit from only 4% of the funding, with over 90% going to the other Member States (countries outside the EU receive the remainder). It is clear from Commission figures for indicators of success, i.e. the ratio of applications which are accepted to the number submitted, that countries in Central and Eastern Europe are less effective (4.2%) than others (12%) when it comes to obtaining funding.

The EU is facing increasing global competition, so that innovation is the only way we can remain a leading economic player. We therefore need commitment from all Member States in the field of science and innovation, including those which are less developed. In connection with the above, I would like to ask the Commission what action it plans to take to ensure that countries which joined the EU in or after 2004 make more, and more effective, use of the Horizon 2020 programme.