

**Question for written answer E-001181/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

**Subject:** Cooperation between the Commission and the European Space Agency to prevent future clock failures on Galileo satellites

The European Union's scientific and economic development will be determined in part by its ability to equip itself with 21st century infrastructure. The space sector is one that will be to the fore in establishing a fertile economic environment in Europe for job creation and investment. With the Treaty of Lisbon the Union acquired the requisite legal basis for a European space policy. We have now undertaken to spend more than EUR 12 billion on the space industry in the period 2014 to 2020.

Galileo is one of our space policy flagship programmes. The network, which will eventually comprise 30 satellites, offers a more efficient alternative to US or Russian navigation systems. The fact of failures in six clocks on board five of the 18 satellites currently in orbit, while not affecting the programme operationally, is therefore a matter of concern.

The European Space Agency (ESA) has said it has yet to identify the root cause of several of the clock failures. What does the Commission intend to do, in the context of its cooperation with the ESA, to rule out any recurrence of such failures?