

**Question for written answer E-001186/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: New Rules for Expert Groups

At the plenary sitting of 14 February 2017, the European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report on the Control of the Register and Composition of the Commission's Expert Groups. This follows the Commission's decision of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, in particular by reforming the original system and the selection of experts.

According to the report, the Commission should aim at a more balanced composition of expert groups, in particular by clarifying in the public call for applications what it means by 'balanced composition' (through the inclusion of organisations or social groups underrepresented in expert groups).

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Is it prepared to ensure a balanced composition of the groups of experts as requested by the European Parliament and to clarify what is meant by 'balanced' for each group?
2. How does it intend to avoid conflicts of interest, not only in relation to experts appointed in their personal capacity, but also in relation to all stakeholders?
3. Finally, why was there no public consultation on the new horizontal rules for expert groups? Why did the Commission not involve civil society in drafting the new rules?