

**Question for written answer E-001187/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Jean-Claude Juncker and risk of a resignation

On 12 February 2017, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, announced that he would not seek a second term of office. One week later, on 20 February, the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* announced that Jean-Claude Juncker would decide during the course of the month whether or not to step down from his position at the head of the EU's executive body.

This is the first time in the history of the EU institutions that a serving President has announced halfway through his term of office that he would not stand again, and it raises doubts, if not on his state of health, then at least on his ability to assume top-level responsibilities in EU matters. But the European Union needs a strong executive now more than ever before: Brexit, the refugee crisis, combatting terrorism, global warming and the euro area crisis are just some of the areas in which the Commission can exert a decisive influence.

1. Given these circumstances, can the Commission ensure that its President is able to meet the challenges and set a course and priorities for the EU28?
2. What arrangements are there for finding a replacement for President Juncker in the event that he should resign?