Question for written answer E-002962/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: EFSI and structural funds

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) has been set up as part of the Juncker Plan with the aim of supporting major projects and of making it easier for SMEs to be granted loans. Positive steps have been taken to support SMEs, however 91% of the EFSI's total investment is in 'old' Member States (the EU15). The imbalance is manifest.

Moreover, it would appear that this mechanism, initially presented as an investment tool, has become an additional instrument for the Cohesion Policy. The structural funds, which include the European Social Fund (ESF), have been earmarked for the policy, and the lack of clarity surrounding the principle of additionality makes matters all the more confusing.

In the event that the Commission intends to extend this mechanism to make it a new Cohesion Policy instrument:

- can the Commission guarantee that the money set aside for the structural funds will not go to the EFSI?

- are the risks of transferring funds from the ESF to the EFSI measurable?