

**Question for written answer E-004274/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Horizon 2020 programme

The interim evaluation of the Horizon 2020 research programme, covering its first two years of implementation (2014 and 2015), shows that the programme is underfunded and, as regards research facilities, overly tilted towards better equipped countries. The success rate for applications currently stands at 11.8%, well below the 20% or so achieved under FP7.

According to the Commission's Director-General of Research and Innovation, there are a good many applications which, though considered excellent, are ultimately not being approved, owing to budgetary constraints. What this amounts to is thousands of hours' work going completely to waste.

How does the Commission view this situation? What funding is available to tackle the flow of applications, bearing in mind that EUR 2.2 billion has been siphoned off for the Juncker Plan and the resulting gap is nowhere near filled?