

**Question for written answer E-005948/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Risk in the research sector in Catalonia

On 20 September, the Ministry of Finance issued Order No HFP/886/2017¹ declaring the unavailability of appropriations in the Budget for the Autonomous Community of Catalonia in 2017. This has, inter alia, resulted in the blocking of European funds from the European Research Council (ERC), causing serious damage and endangering² a sector largely financed by the European Union and whose ultimate task is none other than to encourage high quality research in Europe. This Member would therefore like to know:

- Is the Commission aware of the situation facing Catalan research centres in view of their inability to access EU funds exclusively to finance projects under the ERC programme?
- In a case such as this, what are the Commission's means of communication with the Member State?
- What does the Commission intend to do, within its competences and remit, to ensure that the financial situation of the research institutes concerned does not adversely affect the financial and strategic interests of the European Union?

¹ <http://boe.es/boe/dias/2017/09/21/pdfs/BOE-A-2017-10741.pdf>

² <http://www.lavanguardia.com/ciencia/20170925/431549529420/sistema-de-investigacion-ciencia-universidades-en-peligro-intervencion-financiera-hacienda.html>