

**Question for written answer E-006498/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Council Recommendation: research and innovation

Recital 15 of Council Recommendation of 11 July 2017 on the 2017 National Reform Programme of Spain reels off a series of shameful shortcomings in the Spanish research and innovation system.

Spain faces not only a low added value production model but also a government which compounds that problem by taking no measures to stimulate innovation, including – most importantly – on education, and is thus turning its back on the future.

Whereas on average the Member States now spend 25% more on R&D than they did before the start of the crisis in 2008, Spain spends 10% less, which leaves it even further behind the Union average. What is more, the government failed to spend more than half its science budget in 2016, having spent slightly less than half of it in 2015.

Recommendation 3 states that Spain should ‘ensure adequate and sustained investment in research and innovation and strengthen its governance across government levels’.

1. How will the Commission assess whether Spain has carried out that recommendation?
2. Is the Commission aware of those figures from 2015 and 2016? Has it raised them with the Spanish Government?