

**Question for written answer E-003546/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: Brussels is sending two Swiss universities EUR 642 million in funding using EU taxpayers' money

According to the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS)¹, two Swiss universities – ETH Zurich and EPFL – received EUR 337 million and EUR 305 million respectively as part of the Brussels Commission's seventh research programme (FP7)². In total, the European Union sent 2.5 billion Swiss Francs (CHF) to Switzerland, while Switzerland has put only CHF 2.3 billion into the pot – causing the EU a net loss of CHF 0.2 billion. In other words, wealthy Switzerland is receiving taxpayers' money from Germany, France and the other rare net contributors to the EU budget so that it can fund its research and future jobs. The UK and the US have also received some EUR 150 million³ more than their contributions.

Jobs in the Europe of tomorrow depend on today's research. Can the Commission decide that the future jobs of countries that are not EU Member States should no longer be paid for using French and German taxpayers' money?

¹ 'Review of EU-third country cooperation on policies falling within the ITRE domain in relation to Brexit'. Publication by the European Parliamentary Research Service: study number PE 602.057 (2017), p. 90 [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602057/IPOL_STU\(2017\)602057_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602057/IPOL_STU(2017)602057_EN.pdf)

² FP7 (2007-2013).

³ EUR 144 million for the UK under the FP7 (2007-2013) and EUR 6 million for the US under the Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2015), according to study number EP 602.057 (2017), p. 87 and p. 91 [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602057/IPOL_STU\(2017\)602057_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602057/IPOL_STU(2017)602057_EN.pdf)