

**Question for written answer P-010988/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Arrears of payments in Horizon 2020

The Commission acknowledges in the political agreement on the budget for 2016 that arrears of payments are beginning to assume massive proportions. In the same document, the Commission describes an action plan to eliminate these arrears. However, the plan is applicable only to the Cohesion Fund.

Horizon 2020 is plagued with similar problems. The signature of grant agreements is being seriously delayed in order to be able to postpone payments, and advance funding is being reduced. In this way, the Commission is causing problems to the projects and partners concerned. SMEs which are dependent on European support in order to be able to launch research projects are particularly hard hit by this.

1. Can the Commission explain why no detailed plan to deal with arrears of payments has been devised for Horizon 2020, along the same lines as for the Cohesion Fund?
2. Is the Commission aware that, because of the current approach, described above, the European Union is regarded as an unreliable partner?
3. Will the Commission draw up an exhaustive action plan for eliminating arrears under Horizon 2020, in order to be viewed as a reliable partner?