

**Question for written answer P-012813/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)**

Subject:      Publicity campaign at a time of austerity, financed at the expense of research and innovation

A few days ago a report was released setting out Commission plans for a massive publicity campaign. A total of EUR 26 million will be needed in order to raise public awareness of the Commission's showpiece projects, such as the Juncker plan.

At a time of austerity, it is clear that this sends the wrong message to ordinary Europeans. Even more worrying, however, is the fact that the Commission has no special budget to fund the campaign. The Commission's solution is to turn once again to the programmes which were milked to finance the EFSI. Horizon 2020 was originally seen as one of the keys to economic recovery in the European Union. More recently, however, the Commission seems to have come to regard it as its private piggy bank.

1. Can the Commission confirm that up to EUR 2 million is to be cut from the budget for Horizon 2020 to fund the publicity campaign?
2. Are these cuts consistent with the agreements concerning the programming period to 2020 which the Commission reached with the Member States and the European Parliament in 2013?