Question for written answer P-004720/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: European Fund for Strategic Investments - investment in central and eastern Europe

One of the main priorities defined by the Juncker Commission was to establish the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) - an instrument to boost investment throughout the Union. This mechanism, co-sponsored by the EIB Group, has been aiming at the objective of mobilising at least EUR 315 billion in additional investment in areas such as energy infrastructure, research and innovation or cross-border transport, by mid-2018.

In its communication of 1 June 2016, the Commission states that the investments realised to date should mobilise about EUR 100 billion, amounting to around 32 % of the EFSI's overall objective. Nevertheless, even the Commission is aware that the geographic coverage of the EFSI investment projects is far from being perfect. For instance, if one looks at the list of EFSI projects (excluding those from the SME window) published on the EIB website, there are 15 investments in which France is included, whereas there is only one which includes Poland.

1. Can the Commission explain the reason for these large geographic differences in the number of EFSI projects approved?

2. How does the Commission plan to address the geographic discrepancies so as to prevent further big investment discrepancies between older and newer Member States?