

**Question for written answer E-004040/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Merger and closure of research institutes

The Europe 2020 Strategy provides for a move towards a Union of Innovation, with reorientation of research and development and innovation policy towards addressing major challenges, and a simultaneous reduction in the gap between scientific research and the placing of inventions on the market as products. The Strategy also provides that 3% of EU GDP should be invested in research and development in order to improve the framework conditions and access to financing for research and innovation, and to strengthen the innovation chain and raise levels of investment throughout the Union.

In January 2011, the current heads of the Romanian Ministry of the Economy endorsed the 2009 proposal to merge 14 research institutes into two organisations, respectively responsible for energy and industry. Research and development companies are to be privatised, and a range of high-profile institutes are to be sold off or closed. The company **EUROTEST Bucureşti, an institute that conducts research in the field of** electronics and electrotechnics, is to be restructured, and **ISCIR Bucureşti is to be privatised, and companies such as IPIU Bucureşti, which is an engineering consultancy institute, and BRML-CERT, whose main remit is to provide the scientific bases and ensure the** uniformity and precision of measurements in Romania, **are to be legally dissolved.**

In the light of the above, can the Commission state how it views the Romanian Government's intention to abolish certain research institutes? How will this enable the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy to be achieved?