

**Question for written answer E-000706/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Marietta Giannakou (PPE)**

Subject: European Intergovernmental Organisations being sidelined in EU research planning

The EU's stated objective of making Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, has contributed, *inter alia*, to the gradual development of competent departments and autonomous Community instruments by the European Commission in the field of research on the environment, climate and space.

Nevertheless, questions have been raised concerning the use of existing European organisations and their cooperation with the European Commission, particularly in making decisions on research strategy and planning in these fields.

It seems that European scientific organisations providing long-term services in their areas of responsibility (such as The European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT); The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF); The European Space Agency (ESA); The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); The European Southern Observatory (ESO); The Economic Interest Grouping of National Meteorological Services of the European Economic Area (ECOMET); European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL); EuroGeoSurveys (EGS); and the European Regional Association for weather, hydrology and climate (RA6/WMO)), are not being used in the research planning process on a European level, despite their huge scientific and research projects and multi-annual operational activity.

In view of the above, will the Commission answer the following:

1. How much cooperation is there with the aforementioned European organisations, particularly during the research planning process in their areas of responsibility?
2. Have there been any problems concerning overlaps and shared competence and how were these dealt with?
3. Are these organisations represented institutionally during the preparatory phase for European Commission proposals on matters concerning their fields of research and operation?
4. Given that funding for these intergovernmental organisations comes mainly from EU Member States, does the Commission intend to propose a different model for enhanced cooperation to avoid expensive overlapping and unnecessary repetition?