

**Question for written answer E-003066/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Jean-Luc Bennahmias (ALDE)**

Subject: Horizon 2020: research and the precautionary principle

The 'Horizon 2020' Framework Programme for Research and Innovation presented by the Commission on 30 November 2011, which is currently under negotiation, once again prioritises innovation for industrial purposes. Although they promote development and well-being, new technologies have also had extremely harmful effects: mercury poisoning, fertility problems caused by pesticides, endocrine disruptors – and the list goes on. Despite the lessons of the past, 99 % of funding for public research in the European Union is focused on the development of innovation for industrial purposes, and only 1 % is allocated to examining its potential risks.

1. Is the Commission prepared to accept all the consequences of the precautionary principle in its 'Horizon 2020' programme, by distributing funding more fairly between research into product development and research aimed at identifying the risks presented by these products?
2. Does the Commission intend to make preliminary public studies obligatory, in order to make quite sure that new technologies are not harmful to health or the environment before they are used on an industrial scale?