

**Question for written answer E-005615/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Herbert Reul (PPE)

Subject: Prizes for Research Achievements

Article 138 of the EU Financial Regulation allows budgetary resources to be allocated in the form of prizes. These prizes may be awarded, for example, for solving a scientific problem ('inducement prizes').

In research funding, 'inducement prizes' simplify the procedure for the beneficiary and also make it easier for the Commission, since the audits and inspections that are necessary for direct grants are not applicable. This saves administrative costs and makes EU research funding attractive for participants, who, due to lack of experience and resources, would otherwise have little chance of receiving aid directly: such participants include small to medium-sized enterprises, independent inventors, young entrepreneurs and start-ups or students. Furthermore, the funds may only be released if the research produces results, as EU funding depends solely on a (positive) research result. Competition for the best ideas encourages research breakthroughs, and there is ample scope for innovative approaches.

In addition, public awards to prize-winners can enhance the visibility of EU research funding.

- How many 'inducement prizes' are provided for in the 2014-2015 work programme for Horizon 2020, what is the prize money, for what purposes are the prizes intended and what are the deadlines?

- What percentage of the research funds provided for in the 2014-2015 work programme does this correspond to?

- What difficulties does the Commission envisage in awarding 'inducement prizes'? Are there any particular reasons why prizes of tens of millions of euros should not be awarded over a number of years, for instance up to 2021?