

**Question for written answer E-010201/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Herbert Reul (PPE)**

Subject: Prizes for successful research/demand

Aside from the stated aim of promoting innovation, prize money has other advantages: it may leverage private investment in research & development and reduce the winner's administrative costs.

Given these advantages, it is surprising that only EUR 6 million was awarded under Horizon 2020 between 2014 and 2015. That is less than 0.1 % of the total funds of EUR 7.8 billion granted over that period.

The statement that the plan was to gather experience and then put more ambitious prizes out to tender begs the question of when that will happen. Based on the deadlines for awarding prize money (2016 and 2018), that would mean that the Commission could only start developing new prizes post-2016 or 2018. However, funds under Horizon 2020 must be disbursed by no later than 31 December 2021.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What are the planned deadlines for putting the 'more ambitious' prizes referred to out to tender?
2. Would it be at all possible to reassign funds earmarked for prize money in the financing decision before the year end, if the prize money cannot be disbursed because the preconditions have not been fulfilled?
3. Could prizes be put out to tender together with not-for-profit organisations, Member States or third countries, in order to award bigger prizes and extend the scope of the tendering procedure? In the event of cooperation with Member States, could funds from regional aid and Horizon 2020 be combined?