

**Question for written answer E-003490/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE), Romana Tomc (PPE), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Tanja Fajon (S&D), Alojz Peterle (PPE), Milan Zver (PPE), Franc Bogovič (PPE) and Patricija Šulin (PPE)**

Subject: Reduction of funding for Horizon 2020 programme

Funding for research and science in the Slovenian budget has been reduced every year over the past few years: the budget for Slovenian science has been reduced by a total of over 25% in the past five years, compared with the science funding received five years ago. In view of the situation in which Slovenian science and research finds itself, the funding allocated by the EU for science, research and development is of even greater importance. Without excellent science and results, there is no knowledge and understanding; consequently there is a lack of development in the economy, farming and other areas.

Universities, research institutes and other respected institutions in the EU are warning that the European Commission intends to take several hundred million euros out of the budget allocated to the Horizon 2020 research programme (from various programme pillars and programmes) and give it to the so-called new investment plan for Europe.

Financing the investment plan for Europe by reducing the research funding is totally inappropriate. Because of the importance of the Horizon 2020 programme for science and research in Slovenia and the wider European area, it is essential to maintain it undiminished.

How is the European Commission going to justify reducing the funding for the Horizon 2020 programme, and does it intend to replace the funding taken away from science and research programmes with other appropriate sources of financing?