

**Question for written answer E-005462/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: Horizon 2020 project evaluation: definition of 'impact'

For the purpose of evaluating Horizon 2020 projects, the Commission asks applicants to define the so-called 'impact' of their research proposal. Participants appear to be increasingly unsatisfied with this evaluation practice. How does the Commission define 'impact' with regard to basic and applied research and different scientific fields? Is the Commission looking into ways of differentiating the impact criterion with a view to accommodating the realities of basic research (TRL-1) and the realities of the different TRL levels (TRL3-7) used when linked to collaborative research?