

**Question for written answer E-007819/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Terra Botanica

Terra Botanica park opened in 2010, covering an area of 45 hectares, 12 of which are reserved for tours. The park was initially expected to receive 400 000 visitors per year, but had only 130 000 in 2014. The accumulated losses are estimated to be EUR 5.7 million from an initial investment of EUR 100 million, funded by the inhabitants of Maine-et-Loire.

What is more, there have been numerous criticisms of the way in which the project has been managed, whether it be the planning of investments, the concept itself or the actual positioning of the site, e.g. whether it is a botanical garden or a theme park.

The EU has supposedly provided the park with EUR 20 million in funding.

1. Can the Commission confirm the figure of EUR 20 million in funding?
2. Can it explain the criteria that it uses to decide whether to award funding to a project? Does it have access to marketing studies to assess the relevance of subsidised projects?