

**Question for written answer E-002118/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Unequal remuneration of researchers under the Horizon 2020 programme

For several years, scientists participating in grants financed from the Horizon 2020 programme have complained about unequal remuneration in the programme, which depends not on the type of work but on the researcher's country of origin. Professors working in the same project on the same task receive different amounts, calculated according to national rates of remuneration. The structure of wages and salaries in the EU varies, as does the amount of the base remuneration. A professor from Germany or the Netherlands is paid much more for performing the same work than a professor from Poland or Bulgaria. As a result of numerous complaints in February 2017, the Commission implemented changes to the rules for the remuneration of researchers in the Horizon 2020 programme. However, said changes do not fully compensate for the abovementioned imbalances. The work of the European Parliament and the Commission has repeatedly referred to the principle of equal pay for work of the same value; it was, inter alia, a main argument of the Commission in the dispute over the Directive on posted employees. Therefore:

- 1) Will the Commission, recognising the argument of equal pay for work of the same value as crucial in the preparation of EU law, introduce an additional, expected correction of the remuneration system in the Horizon 2020 programme?
- 2) What is the size of the remuneration imbalance for researchers working on the same tasks, but coming from different countries, after the implementation of changes in 2017?