

**Question for written answer E-003940/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU investment in 'research and development'

According to recent Eurostat data regarding progress in the area of research and development, the EU is falling behind in the following respects:

(a) It is failing to meet its targets for 2020 ¹ and

(b) It has failed to match American and Japanese investment levels over the last 10 years, thereby undermining EU economic competitiveness and productivity ².

The Europe 2020 strategy sets the target for investment in research and development at 3 % of GDP. However, between 2007 and 2017, there were considerable disparities between countries regarding investment levels and few came close to meeting this target.

In view of this:

1. How will the Commission help to ensure that R&D targets for the next decade (2020-2030) are met, particularly in countries such as Greece that failed to achieve the European average?
2. In view of the levels of private and public R&D funding throughout Europe over the past decade, will the Commission seek an increase in EU funding? If so, what will be its target amount and subject to what criteria?
3. What can be done over the next few years to ensure that progress in R&D goes hand-in-hand with progress in combating poverty and social exclusion, another area in which the EU is lagging behind?

¹ <http://www.sepe.gr/gr/research-studies/article/14412253/apehei-i-euopi-apo-tous-stohous-tis-gia-tis-ependuseis-se-rd/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/R_%26_D_expenditure#Gross_domestic_expenditure_on_R_26_D