

**Question for written answer E-001374/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Delays in the reimbursement of research projects that received EU funds

The EU's investment of 3% of GDP in research and development (R&D) was a goal to be reached and was therefore renewed repeatedly. According to the Commission, this investment could create 3.7 million jobs and increase annual GDP by EUR 795 billion by 2025.

The multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2014 to 2020 provided for a number of programmes and financial instruments to support the development of innovation policy. However, in the majority of cases, research centres and higher education facilities had to pay for projects out of their own pockets and were later reimbursed.

In Portugal, reimbursement delays have caused bottlenecks for these institutions' financial departments, which have been compounded by the uncertainty surrounding future investments. This situation is causing serious problems with regard to developing the research policy.

1. Does the Commission keep and make available information on the reimbursement times for projects that received EU funds once the sums have been transferred to the Member State and are in the hands of the administration at coordinating agencies or administrative bodies?
2. Is the Commission considering taking measures with a view to simplifying and harmonising these processes for the MFF 2021-2027?