

**Question for written answer E-004591/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Expiry of funding under Horizon 2020

The Commission's website (as of 22 July 2020) states that many researchers benefiting from Horizon funding have had their work interrupted by the pandemic, including those funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

The Commission and the Research Executive Agency have said they will be flexible and allow for necessary extensions for projects to be completed. At the same time, many researchers are in danger of seeing their incomes dry up if they make use of such an extension. The Commission was informed about this situation in April by some of the researchers concerned. In its reply, the Commission merely referred to the possibility for recruiting institutions to use other institutional monies to pay researchers' salaries.

1. How many researchers funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions need extensions to their research periods? Would their salaries cease to be paid once the original period came to an end?
2. Some recruiting institutions will not be able to find further funds to pay the salaries. Is the Commission prepared to abandon the progress made thus far by the researchers concerned because projects have unavoidably come to a halt, or does it expect researchers to work unpaid if the project periods are extended?
3. Can the Commission envisage a transitional solution involving the planned funding for Horizon Europe under the #NextGenerationEU recovery fund which would enable researchers in this situation to be paid to complete their funded projects?