

**Question for written answer E-000565/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Results of the investigation into why a European space mission failed

In November 2020, a Vega rocket launched by the firm Arianespace failed to complete its transport mission, thereby derailing the placing in orbit of the satellite Ingenio, in which EUR 200 million had been invested. Ingenio's mission was to provide a platform for high-resolution optical instruments that would capture images of Earth for use by civil society, institutional and government bodies, both in Spain and elsewhere in Europe, as part of the Copernicus programme. The images were supposed to be used mostly in projects to combat climate change. This is the second time in 17 launches that a rocket with these specifications has failed. The European Space Agency (ESA) announced that an independent investigation had begun in order to shed light on why the launch failed.

Three months have now passed since the accident.

1. Does the Commission have any information on the state of play regarding the investigation announced by the European Space Agency?
2. What steps can be taken at EU level to restart the programme that was thwarted by this accident?
3. Can Next Generation EU funds be used to support such activities?