

Question for written answer E-003625/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Budget cuts for Horizon Europe, Digital Europe and InvestEU

On Wednesday 14 July 2021, the European Council presented a proposal in which Member States call for the budgets of Horizon Europe, Digital Europe and InvestEU to be cut by EUR 316 million, EUR 50 million and EUR 45.5 million respectively.

Overall, the total cuts proposed amount to EUR 1.4 billion less than what the Commission had proposed in June.

The Commission had decided to allocate some EUR 12.2 billion for the research and innovation programme for the same period, but Member States deemed that there was insufficient demand to spend the entire budget in 2022 and decided to postpone Horizon Europe's appropriations, which will last until 2027.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission not agree that the Council's policy runs counter to the ambitious policies on climate change and the digital transition, which require significant investment in research and innovation?
2. Does it think that postponing spending to subsequent years is in line with the need to assist Member States so that they can increase public spending on research and development from 0.81% to 1.25% of GDP by 2030, as provided for in the new plan to establish a single market for research in the European Research Area (ERA)?