

**Question for written answer E-002713/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Evaluation Summary Reports (ESRs)

Horizon Europe remains competitive and the evaluation process attracts feedback from world-leading experts. It is crucial that the application and evaluation process itself is conducive to delivering useful feedback to applicants, whether the proposal is selected for funding or not. The success of such an endeavour depends on the quality of the process connecting the expert evaluators and their feedback to the applicants. Many stakeholders have commented on the declining quality of the ESRs under Horizon Europe compared to Horizon 2020 (which had already been criticised). Producing the ESRs increasingly relies on 'chat-like' tools for experts to reach a consensus through short snippets of writing instead of live engagement. Evaluation panels generally cover a broader range of topics under Horizon Europe compared to Horizon 2020 due to the call formulation in terms of expected impacts, as well as the cluster structure of Horizon Europe.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the comments from stakeholders regarding the quality of the ESRs?
2. How is the quality of the ESRs impacted by the fact that evaluators increasingly engage through online chat tools and have to evaluate proposals from disciplines in which they are not experts?
3. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure that the quality of the ESRs will improve?