

**Question for written answer P-012032/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)**

Subject: Women's underrepresentation in science

Even today, women are underrepresented in many fields, as can be observed in the fields of science and technology in Europe. The 'Mutationnelles 2013' report, published by Global Contact on behalf of Orange in September 2013 to coincide with France's Festival of Science, looks at the role of women in science and technology in France, highlighting the fact that women continue to be a minority in the scientific sector<sup>1</sup>. In the EU women account for only 33 % of students enrolled in science faculties and only 27 % of those enrolled in engineering schools, according to the 'Gender Research and Innovation' study published by the Commission in 2012<sup>2</sup>.

The EU has taken multiple initiatives and launched many projects with a view to increasing women's participation in innovation and science. However, these initiatives have not yielded the expected results.

Accordingly, it seems appropriate to ask the Commission:

1. What does it believe to be the reasons that this problem has not been addressed effectively? Have any specific studies been commissioned on the topic?
2. How does it plan to tackle gender stereotypes in science and encourage girls to consider careers in sectors such as science, technology and engineering?
3. Is there a way to assess the negative impact of women's underrepresentation on the EU economy?
4. How well are the different Member States performing in this area, and what conclusions can be drawn?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.global-contact.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Mutationnelles-20131.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document\\_library/pdf\\_06/she-figures-2012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/she-figures-2012_en.pdf)