

**Priority question for written answer P-002552/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Sudden premature halt of call for EIC Accelerator funding

On Friday 7 May, the European Innovation Council (EIC) suddenly closed submissions, ahead of the cut-off date of 16 June 2021, to the call for EIC Accelerator funding, aimed mainly at start-ups.

Published on 18 March, the call had a budget of EUR 1 billion for 2021, of which EUR 592 million would go to promising companies in any sector, with EUR 495 million earmarked for health, digital and green technologies.

Many entrepreneurs have been left in the lurch by the decision to close submissions without warning before 16 June. Anyone still wishing to apply for funding will now have to wait until 6 October 2021 at the earliest.

The EIC froze the call due to time constraints: flooded with applications, it realised that it would not be able to assess all the proposals in the time available and so took the unilateral decision to accept no further applications for the first round of funding.

In the light of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether the decision to prematurely close the call without warning is legally valid and will have no distorting effects for the companies that were preparing to apply by the original cut-off date?
2. Can it give details of the geographical spread of the applicants who have already submitted projects?
3. Does it intend in future to disseminate information equally in all Member States?