**Siegfried Mureşan (PPE).** – Madam President, I would also like to welcome Minister Löger to the European Parliament this evening.

This year we are sharing the priorities for the budget of the Union for next year, exactly as we shared them for this year. The Council and Parliament, together we say that the economy is important and competitiveness is important, we want more growth and more jobs, and research and innovation are important. But we go on two different paths. The Parliament, under the leadership of Daniele Viotti, will propose adequate, realistic increases where money is needed; while the Council, pretending that competitiveness, research and innovation is important, reduces the amounts foreseen for Horizon 2020 by EUR 300 million. This worsens competitiveness in Europe and endangers research and innovation. Minister Löger, this is why I would really call on you in the following negotiations to move closer to Parliament’s position so that we can adequately finance these important areas, which we have jointly agreed are important. If we agree that something is important, we have to finance it adequately as well.

Secondly, I would like to draw colleagues’ attention to one of the amendments which I have put forward. It foresees the allocation of EUR 50 million in the position of the Parliament in Heading 2 for combating swine fever in Europe, because in several Member States we are seeing this dangerous disease which affects farmers in Europe. I would like to call on the Commission and the Council to foresee the amounts needed. People and farmers are in need. We have to stand by their side if they are in need. The Union has to be by their side.