

**Question for written answer E-015394/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: Protection of intellectual property rights

A number of Member States have taken on the challenge of increasing research and innovation opportunities for young people by setting up initiatives within higher and further education institutes or linked to them. Yet often the goods or services produced by these young people or start-ups are disadvantaged in the wider market as they cannot afford to cover the cost of registering their intellectual property rights on their creations thereby making them vulnerable when launching their creation in public when seeking funds, marketing or production opportunities.

- a. Has the Commission undertaken any study to collect information in this respect?
- b. Are there EU measures or funding opportunities already available to help start-ups cover this initial cost thereby ensuring a better chance for that start-up to turn into a flourishing business?
- c. Will the Commission consider a measure or structure that would allow the protection of intellectual property rights for start-ups in their initial years so that they can create a new product or service at reduced costs?