

**Question for written answer E-015416/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Emma McClarkin (ECR)

Subject: EU research funding

It has been brought to my attention that there is a system in place whereby smaller partners (such as research institutions) of some EU-funded research projects are paid indirectly through money transferred to the coordinating partner of the project.

This raises questions as regards the organisational structure as a whole, as any kind of financial difficulties experienced by the intermediary partner might lead to a loss of public money. Moreover the increased number of individuals involved in funding projects only heightens the lack of oversight that can be exercised in the use of EU funds.

It is essential that organisations from my constituency and across Europe have the confidence that they will be paid for the projects they undertake wherever they are working in Europe. Therefore I ask the following questions:

What is the rationale for using intermediaries and not paying SMEs and end-users directly? Has the Commission conducted any impact assessments on reducing these barriers?

What is the oversight of the Commission for this supply chain and the EU funds?

Finally, what action can, and should, the Commission take in instances of intermediary breakdown?