

Question for written answer E-015442/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: European Union support for research and technological development (R&TD) and innovation in Latvia

One of the main fields in which support is available under the framework programme 'Europe 2020' is research and development. The problem is that, not uncommonly, the situations in different States are very different and make it impossible to perform tasks effectively and on time with a view to achieving the desired progress.

More specifically, in Latvia there are plans for investing 10.58% (EUR 467.5 million) of the funding for the programme 'Growth and Employment' in research and technological development (R&TD) and innovation, in order to invest at least 1.5% of GDP in it up to 2020. Bearing in mind that, at present, investment in science and development in Latvia accounts for only 0.6% of GDP, and that in the past decade it has never exceeded 0.7%, the likelihood of its attaining the figure of 2% in the next five years is fairly negligible.

1. Is the European Union planning to gradually reform the field of R&TD and innovation relating to it, in order to make it compulsory to allocate minimum budgets in the Member States defined in terms of each State's GDP?
2. What corresponding reforms, including reforms to State budgets, could the Commission recommend to Latvia, in order to make it possible in some way after all to attain the above level of 2%?
3. At present the bulk of investment in science and development in Latvia is financed by foreign countries, followed by State and business sources. What ways could the Commission recommend to Latvia of increasing substantially, in particular, sources of funding from businesses and also funding from universities, which amounts to very little at the moment?