

**Question for written answer E-015624/2015/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Barbara Kudrycka (PPE)**

Subject: Seal of Excellence - a new Horizon 2020 instrument

The Seal of Excellence, a new Horizon 2020 instrument, is to be awarded to projects that received high assessment scores but did not secure funding due to budgetary constraints. It is to serve as a mark of excellent quality in other grant competitions – including competitions for structural funds organised at national or regional levels.

The initiative, which will be governed by strict conditions, could promote excellence in the EU and bind Horizon 2020 more closely to the structural funds.

However, the Seal of Excellence will only truly have the potential to support projects in competitions for funding outside Horizon 2020 if the institutions organising those competitions fully accept the idea and the principles that govern it.

Who was consulted on the new initiative and by what means, and was it widely accepted? To what extent will the institutions that award funding for research and innovation recognise the Seal of Excellence?