

**Priority question for written answer P-002256/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: Horizon Europe: undue interference in human resources

The most valuable part of a research project is the research team involved. Putting that team together is the prerogative of the researchers themselves. However, the Commission seems to increasingly get involved in the personnel questions of Horizon Europe projects. For example, Horizon Europe beneficiaries have reported being questioned regarding the seniority and associated costs of the researchers involved in the projects. There have even been reports of direct requests to replace more senior researchers with cheaper junior researchers.

Can the Commission refer to the legal basis for its intervention or the intervention of an executive agency in the personnel choices of beneficiaries in relation to specific projects?

Supporters¹

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