Question for written answer E-002190/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Implementing the fifth freedom of movement in the internal market: research, innovation, data and knowledge

The Letta report[1] (April 2024) proposed a fifth freedom of movement in the single market for research, innovation, data, skills and education – an idea already put forward by Jacques Delors in 1989. Two years on and we have yet to achieve this fundamental condition to reverse the slowdown in European competitiveness. Despite initiatives such as Choose Europe for Science and the European Health Data Space, there is still no integrated strategy for the free movement of researchers, knowledge and data.

Given that the EU's share of global patents has been falling and that 90 % of public investment in research and innovation remains national and focused on domestic priorities, this issue is becoming particularly pressing.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. What legislative or non-legislative initiatives does it intend to pursue, and what the timeline would be, to formally enshrine the fifth freedom of movement in the single market?

2. Does it envisage setting up a European grant for deep tech, with rules tailored to risk finance?

3. Does it believe it is the right moment to set up a European Joint Knowledge Centre, in line with the Letta report, based around a centralised digital platform providing access to publicly funded research, data and educational resources?

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[1] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/ny3j24sm/much-more-than-a-market-report-by-enrico-letta.pdf