

**Question for written answer E-003053/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Basic methodological mistakes in European Partnerships public consultation

The open public consultation on the Single Basic Act for Joint Undertakings¹ and thematic priorities for the European Partnerships portfolio in Horizon Europe 2028-2034 will inform the accompanying impact assessment.

Several mandatory items depart from standard survey practice and from the Better Regulation toolbox.

Some questions require a single answer to what are really two (or more) separate questions. Respondents must rate in one answer whether partnerships support ‘development, uptake and/or deployment ... by EU industry and society’ or whether ‘membership, participation, and funding access’ are ‘hard to understand and navigate’.

Respondents are also asked to rate the effectiveness of something without specifying what they are effective at, e.g. ‘redesign rules for non-cash contributions’, ‘minimum size (budget) of call for proposals’, and even ‘other measures to improve flexibility in programming’.

The scale runs from ‘extremely effective’ to ‘not effective’, with no option to say that a measure would actually be counterproductive.

Joint Undertakings and Article 185 TFEU initiatives are grouped together throughout the survey, even though they have different governance and funding structures.

Even if respondents reject a premise they must still rate its causes and remedies.

1. Who methodologically validated this questionnaire before launch?
2. How will the Commission correct for these design effects when reporting results?
3. Will the microdata and the coding frame for open answers be published?

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¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2085/oj>).