

Question for written answer E-003897/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Stanisław Tyszką (ESN)

Subject: Geographical imbalance in location of Joint Research Centre sites

More than 20 years after the EU's largest enlargement, all six sites of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) are still located in five countries of the 'old' Union: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. None of the 13 countries that joined the EU in 2004 or later hosts a JRC centre, although they all co-fund its laboratories, infrastructure and jobs.

In its resolution of 25 October 2018 on the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), Parliament criticised the widening geographical imbalance in the distribution of EU agencies, pointing out that only 9 of the 37 decentralised agencies were located in the new Member States.

Poland – the largest country in the region, with significant scientific potential, an extensive research base and a skilled workforce – is a natural candidate for hosting the JRC's research activities.

1. What objective grounds does the Commission cite to justify the concentration of all JRC sites exclusively in countries that joined the EU before 2004?
2. Does the Commission regard this concentration as an imbalance similar to that highlighted by Parliament with regard to the decentralised agencies, and if not, on what grounds does it justify a different approach in respect of the JRC?
3. In the event of any future reorganisation, relocation or redistribution of the JRC's activities, will the Commission consider locating a research centre in Poland?

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