

**Question for written answer E-005766/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Support for SMEs

In a number of Member States, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) generally find themselves confronted with a highly unfavourable economic climate owing to very low growth and high unemployment, particularly among young people, compounded by financial austerity measures prompted by high public and private debt levels.

In the current economic crisis, the impact of fiscal consolidation should be offset by measures to stimulate and underpin economic growth and job creation in the form of structural reforms such as investment in infrastructure, innovation and training.

Structural reform can become the principal driving force behind economic growth, creating fresh business and investment opportunities, provided that the needs of SMEs are met by the present-day employment market and the reforms introduced make companies more competitive. More efforts must therefore be made at European level to implement the reforms necessary regarding the provision of goods and services and in respect of the employment market.

Is the Commission envisaging a fresh approach to SME strategy at European level, placing greater emphasis on investment and job creation?