

**Question for written answer E-008496/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sorin Moisă (S&D)**

Subject: Support services for internationalisation of European SMEs

In the context of the EU's efforts towards an 'industrial renaissance', it is essential to stimulate the competitiveness of European SMEs, the backbone of the EU economy. With reference to the involvement of SMEs in markets with growth potential, such as China, India, South Korea and Brazil, in its 2011 report entitled 'Opportunities for the internationalisation of European SMEs' DG Enterprise found that 'many SMEs come out to these third markets without being adequately prepared ("they should do their homework")'. The same publication notes that while there are almost 300 support measures at both EU and Member State level, 'nearly three quarters of all internationally active SMEs are not aware of existing support measures'. The fault for this lack of knowledge might not lie exclusively with the SMEs themselves.

1. To what extent can the low take-up be attributed to the 'culture' of SMEs?
2. Is there greater scope for the Commission to improve the take-up rate of SME support measures, especially of those available at EU level?