

**Question for written answer E-011212/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Price of European patents

After years of negotiation, enhanced cooperation has seen the light and a European patent is to be created. This long-awaited patent needed to complete the single market should provide better protection for undertakings and easier access for SMEs to different markets in Europe. However, although debate on the practical implementation of the European patent has started, the question of price still appears to be of concern.

In fact, the scientific committee in charge of setting it is examining proposals of between 3 and 8 times the price of a national patent and, at such a price, it will be unable to compete with national patent offices.

The new Commission has set itself the objective of simplifying procedures to the maximum and completing the internal market.

1. Does the Commission intend to intervene in the debate and take up a position in favour of a European patent at a price which SMEs can afford?
2. Does the Commission wish to submit proposals for Spain and Italy to join the European patent?