

**Question for written answer E-000241/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

The Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 sets specific criteria for the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. These criteria are based on compliance with both the specified number of employees and turnover or number of employees and balance sheet total (Article 2 of the Annex).

As we all know, enterprises' economic and financial situations vary enormously from one sector to another. This means that this cumulative requirement is penalising a large number of enterprises which are highly labour-intensive, particularly in industries that are vital to the Portuguese economy, including textiles and footwear among others.

As well as being prejudicial to highly labour-intensive enterprises, the imposition of both criteria in combination has an indirect negative impact on job creation.

Is the Commission willing to review these criteria, either by adjusting them for the various economic sectors, by allowing just one of the two criteria to be taken into account (number of employees or turnover), or even by establishing a new criterion based on the ratio of turnover to number of employees?