

**Question for written answer E-002378/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Fighting over-regulation as a barrier to development of entrepreneurialism

One of the most frequent complaints made against the EU institutions is their tendency to create an excessive amount of legal standards when compared with real needs. Consequently, instead of regulation, we have over-regulation – i.e., an overly extensive system of commands, prohibitions and penalties. This does not promote development and mainly harms micro-entrepreneurs and SMEs.

It seems that one of the reasons for the constant creation of new provisions, procedures, obligations and restrictions is an attempt to eliminate violations of the law, even if they are of an isolated or incidental character. When unacceptable phenomena are uncovered, demands for drastic changes to current rules or for the introduction of new regulations are accepted too hastily.

Creating EU law in this way can be compared to applying collective responsibility. One effect of such regulations is to increase the bureaucratic and financial burden of running a business – not to reduce the level of dishonesty among people breaking the law.

What does the Commission intend to do in order to eliminate this inappropriate approach, whereby the rights and obligations of all honest people or entities are adjusted in view of the potential for a small number of dishonest people or entities to break the law? How does the Commission plan to combat over-regulation in the long-term, and what objectives does it hope to attain in this area?