

**Question for written answer E-004169/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Delays in the payment for commercial transactions with the public authorities

Delays in the payment for commercial transactions are a common practice within the EU and in Italy in particular. In the public sector, payments normally take longer than for contracts in the private sector. These delays entail major costs for creditor companies, and SMEs in particular. In Italy, the average payment time for healthcare establishments to suppliers is 172 days, with a registered debt of EUR 3.7 billion. In some Italian regions, such as Calabria and Molise, the average payment time even exceeds 600 days, as is the case for the Azienda Ospedaliera Mater Domini in Catanzaro (1 459 days) or the Azienda Sanitaria Regionale in Campobasso (653 days).

Directive 2011/7/EU sets a time limit of 30 days, which may be extended to 60 days, for transactions between companies and public authorities. Therefore, can the Commission answer the following question:

does it intend to open an infringement procedure to ensure compliance with Union legislation and to safeguard the rights of suppliers?