

**Question for written answer E-006853/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Facilitating the internationalisation of EU businesses

During the hearings for the new Commission, Commissioner Elżbieta Bienkowska stated: 'I want a single market that is fair, that supports trade, investments and productivity, and that promotes freedom of choice, hence creating new opportunities for citizens and businesses alike.'

A link does exist between internationalisation and innovation. Companies which engage in foreign trade record good rates of economic and jobs growth. Nevertheless, in Italy, there are few plans specifically supporting the internationalisation of micro-enterprises (which account for almost the whole of Italian industry, around 95%, and provide work for 67.3% of the people in employment). There is also a shortage of specialist managers focused on foreign business and a lack of marketing plans and export-led strategies.

1. How does the Commission plan to increase the openness of micro-enterprises and small businesses to foreign markets, since the recorded figures show that these businesses account for almost the whole market in Italy?
2. What action does it intend take to encourage the Member States to cut the red tape associated with imports and exports of goods and services, by introducing fair rules of competition and agreements which do not discriminate?
3. How does it plan to promote and simplify access to European sources of funding in support of foreign trade?