

Question for written answer E-008112/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Review of the Small Business Act

SMEs account for over 99% of all EU companies, and have been responsible for creating 85% of all new jobs over the past five years. Despite this, however, they are still facing major difficulties, resulting in problems such as obtaining access to financing, having to overcome obstacles in moving into new markets, and excessive red tape.

The Small Business Act (SBA) adopted in 2008 was designed to iron out these problems by acknowledging the key role SMEs play in the EU economy and introducing comprehensive frameworks for SME development.

Between September and December 2014 the Commission held public consultations on the SBA which showed that it has brought about many significant advantages for SMEs. Developing the SBA further, and adapting it to fit in with the programming period for 2014-2020 could speed up this process even more.

However, the Commission did not include the review and strengthening of the SBA in its 2015 Work Programme, opting for a more segmented approach. This decision could send a negative signal to millions of SMEs, creating the impression that only large companies and large investment projects lie at the centre of European policy.

Given the obstacles that SMEs are facing and the worrying employment situation right across the EU, it would seem that promoting and facilitating entrepreneurship is a pressing matter. With that in mind, when does the Commission intend to carry out a review of the Small Business Act?