

**Question for written answer E-009188/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Even spread of 'high-tech' small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the EU

The 2013/2014 Annual Report on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has established that only 2% of EU-28 SMEs are involved in high-tech manufacturing (compared with 7% of large companies), with considerable variations from one Member State to the next. Given that high-tech firms have a key role to play in making Europe more competitive:

1. Does the Commission agree that the SME presence in the high-tech sector should be strengthened and the disparities among Member States narrowed?
2. What will it do to increase the proportion of SMEs in the high-tech sector and reduce the differences within the EU?
3. Does it have any comparable figures for the US?