Question for written answer E-010206/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: EU support for family businesses

Family businesses are particularly important for the European economy as they account for 60% of all European companies and create more than 50% of all jobs in the private sector. The way they are run helps stabilise the market, as they are often funded by the families themselves by reinvesting income rather than taking out loans, which makes them more resilient to economic fluctuations.

Furthermore, family businesses are deeply rooted in their local communities, helping to bind those communities together and establishing close relationships with their employees, which is more difficult to do in large corporations. Family businesses also provide an excellent opportunity for young people to get onto the labour market, learn and develop their careers.

Despite having a large number of advantages, family businesses in Member States still face major difficulties in connection with matters such as income tax, inheritance tax, business succession arrangements, donations and access to outside funding.

What is the Commission doing to help family businesses develop and maintain their stability, including when they are being transferred from one generation to the next?

How does the Commission intend to respond to Parliament's report calling for the creation of a special instrument for financial transfers that would prevent family businesses from running into liquidity problems?