

**Question for written answer E-012077/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: The self-employed

According to a survey by MBO Partners, the self-employed now account for 25 % of the active population in the US and look set to exceed the number of wage-earners by 2020. If this indeed proved to be the case, it would revolutionise the labour market.

In the European Union, an average of 15% of the active population is self-employed.

1. Has the EU seen any increase in this percentage over recent years?
2. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that EU citizens seeking to set up their own business activity are given all possible assistance?