

**Question for written answer E-013715/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Implementation of the late payments directive

Late payments create backlogs which affect thousands of EU businesses. Delays of this kind bankrupt companies and destroy jobs.

In 2011, in an effort to tackle the issue, the EU adopted Directive 2011/7/EU on combatting late payment in commercial transactions, which sets out statutory payment periods. Its objective was to prevent situations in which SMEs find themselves in financial difficulty as a result of late payments in their dealings with other businesses and public bodies.

However, according to the 2014 European Payment Index report, the problem has not yet been resolved. Nearly 3/4 of EU businesses say that the situation has not improved since the directive was adopted, and more than half still wait an excessively long time before receiving payment.

It is clear that more has to be done on both EU and national levels if the directive is really to help EU businesses develop. What is the Commission doing to make sure that the directive is properly transposed, and what is its assessment of the ways in which the directive has been implemented and applied in each Member State?