

Question for written answer E-000808/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: SME access to EU funding

One of the main aims of Horizon 2020 is to increase support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Small Business Act has created a strategic framework for making better use of the growth and innovation potential of SMEs. In this regard, several instruments, such as COSME, the ERDF and Horizon 2020, serve to strengthen competitiveness and facilitate access to finance for SMEs.

However, whilst the European Union encourages businesses to innovate and invest by means of these instruments, it requires them to go through a very complex procedure to obtain the funding.

The complexity of the procedures is partly due to the strict checks carried out by the Commission, but improvements nevertheless seem to be necessary.

1. Is the Commission planning to make the control procedures more flexible so as to give a greater margin for manoeuvre and greater co-responsibility to Cohesion Fund beneficiaries?
2. Could systematic support measures not be provided for drawing up grant application files in accordance with these procedures?