

Question for written answer E-002475/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Edward Czesak (ECR)

Subject: Family businesses in Europe

According to Commission estimates from 2009, more than 60% of all European companies are family businesses – most of them SMEs – and those businesses account for 40-50% of jobs in the private sector. Family businesses lay the foundations for a durable, balanced economy that can provide stable jobs, which is one of the pillars of the European economy. Yet in spite of those companies' enormous contribution to the economy, current EU policies do not appear to afford them much importance.

1. When is the Commission planning to carry out an impact assessment to investigate how the EU's 2003 definition of SMEs could be changed in such a way as to give less emphasis to size and more emphasis to the nature of the business, taking account of factors such as the relationship between the ownership, control and management of the business and its personal character?
2. Is the Commission planning to create a platform for Member States to exchange best practices in the area of supporting family businesses?