

**Question for written answer E-003374/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE)

Subject: SME instrument

In line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Commission designed an SME instrument to promote competitiveness, growth and job creation for European SMEs through the delivery of innovations for the market.

It is important that the SME instrument corresponds to this philosophy and is impact-oriented, which will empower SMEs to make progress in innovation, from idea to proof of concept, development and commercialisation. To this end:

1. What action is the Commission taking to thoroughly assess the effectiveness of the SME instrument programme with a view to reducing unnecessary administrative burdens?
2. What are the achievements of the programme so far, particularly in terms of filling the gaps in funding for SMEs in the early stages, and accelerating the process of innovation?