

**Question for written answer E-005959/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Implementing the EU's COSME programme on SME competitiveness

One of the main problems that entrepreneurs in the EU currently face is that of access to finance. In that connection, EUR 2.3 billion has been earmarked to support SME competitiveness under the EU's COSME programme as part of the financial perspective for 2014-2020.

It has been stated that the key aim of COSME is to make it easier to start and develop businesses by cutting down on legal and administrative red tape, promoting good practices and local and national level, and assessing the effectiveness of existing SME support schemes in individual countries. These are notable improvements that should have tangible effects. Furthermore, one of the central components of COSME is the Enterprise Europe Network, which provides advice to businesses free of charge.

Given that the COSME has now been going for two years, does the Commission have detailed information on the operation of the programme that takes account of issues such as the geographical distribution of applicants and beneficiaries, and the impact of the programme on the internationalisation of business in the EU? What is the Commission's assessment of the activities of the Enterprise Europe Network? What further action is it planning to take in order to step up promotion of the programme among entrepreneurs?