

**Question for written answer E-000414/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dariusz Rosati (PPE)**

Subject: Regional aid for investors

Regional aid is a key component of EU funding policy, and availability of such aid can be a decisive factor in whether investment in a given area goes ahead or not. Investors often focus on projects in special economic zones or areas covered by operational programmes, owing to the availability of subsidies. The Commission proposal amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty will affect projects of this kind. The proposal seeks, inter alia, to broaden the definition of 'closure of the same or similar activity' resulting in the loss of a given number or percentage of jobs. The amended definition will have an impact on the financial assistance available to investors in respect of specific projects. This is because anyone closing down the same or similar activity within two years of applying for aid will no longer be entitled to EU funding.

1. In the Commission's view, are the proposed changes not likely to cool investor interest in EEA regions not covered by the regulation?
2. Is the new wording of Article 58 put forward in the Commission proposal fully in keeping with the principle of non-retroactivity of law?