

**Question for written answer E-002691/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE) and Jozo Radoš (ALDE)**

Subject: Dealing with the problem of 'systemic' companies

The law on the extraordinary administration procedure in trading companies of systemic importance to Croatia, which was adopted in the Croatian Parliament on 6 April 2017, has prompted a variety of responses among the public. The law has been applied at Agrokor, a company employing tens of thousands of people. One cause of concern is the loss of thousands of jobs, the problems that might arise for hundreds of firms if Agrokor were to go out of business, and the adverse impact on Croatian GDP. Critics of the law, on the other hand, maintain that it is placing Croatian entrepreneurs on an unequal footing. Some are even taking the view that the law is not in accordance with EU legislation or with the Croatian Constitution. This law is modelled on the one applied to Parmalat in Italy and on Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code, which allows businesses to be reorganised and their debt restructured.

In the light of the foregoing, would it be appropriate to devise measures at European level for the European market whereby business problems of the type described would be dealt with by a uniform approach, while also safeguarding jobs and economic interests and guaranteeing a level playing field for businesses?