

**Question for written answer E-002686/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: SME test

Under the Better Regulation Guidelines, Commission services are obliged when carrying out impact assessments to evaluate the impacts of the proposed policy initiative on SMEs, and to present that evaluation in the final impact assessment report.

In particular, the 'SME test' encourages the Commission to ensure that SMEs are consulted if they might be potentially affected by the initiative. Moreover, the costs and benefits should be analysed qualitatively and quantitatively, including the possible impact on innovation.

Despite these clear rules, we hear from various stakeholders that certain Commission services are not sufficiently assessing the implications of proposed policy changes for SMEs, in particular on subjects such as the posting of workers, emission reductions and promotion of renewable energy sources. Similar concerns have been expressed in relation to the ongoing impact assessment of the review of EU legislation on Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs).

How does the Commission intend to make sure that the involvement of SMEs in the EU decision-making process and the specific analysis of the impact of policy initiatives on SMEs are guaranteed by all Commission services?

With regard to SPCs, does the Commission intend to apply the SME test properly? If not, could it please provide reasons?