

**Question for written answer E-001912/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

**Subject:** Giving micro, small and medium-sized enterprises a stronger position in social dialogue in the Member States

Dialogue with social partners is a key part of the creation of law, at both national and EU level. Given their in-depth knowledge of European workplaces and their activities, social partners are in the best position to understand the needs of employers and employees and defend their interests effectively. In this way, social dialogue can have a measurable impact on the organisation of job markets and working conditions.

It must be stressed, however, that the formal requirements for social dialogue – in particular, the ‘representativeness’ criterion – mean that most of the employers’ and employees’ groups are from large companies that employ hundreds or even thousands of people. This leads to a situation in which micro, small and medium-sized enterprises – which account for almost 98% of all businesses and employ 67% of Europeans – find it difficult to get their voices heard. This lack of representation in social dialogue makes it much more difficult to create the conditions under which the full potential of smaller companies to boost the European economy can be harnessed.

In the light of the above: Does the Commission take the view that legal solutions need to be sought to strengthen the position of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in social dialogue, and in this way ensure that those entities are much better represented in consultations with social partners?