

**Question for written answer P-000764/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: State aid to scale-ups

In recent years, the Commission has increasingly been emphasising scale-ups. They are important for our innovation, employment and the economy. In comparison with the USA, Europe is not doing well. Indeed, European companies are moving to the United States in order to grow, because after the start-up phase, innovative businesses need to be able to grow or scale up. In between various funding rounds, they again invest substantial amounts of their own equity with the aim of being able to grow further. If, on account of losses, their equity has been reduced to less than half of their capital, they are regarded, under European State aid rules, as being in difficulty. Consequently, such businesses are not permitted to receive any more subsidies at national or regional level or from the European Structural and Investment Funds. Yet it is precisely these businesses that need a little extra help.

1. Is the Commission aware of the contradictory nature of its policy on scale-ups?
2. Will the Commission modify the existing rules in order to make it possible to support scale-ups at the times when they can make the best use of such support?