

**Question for written answer P-003276/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Antonius Manders (PPE)

Subject: A single market that works for SMEs: introduction of a 'fast-track' procedure at the European Court of Justice

During this year's campaign for the European Parliament elections, we received a lot of complaints from SMEs. The single market is not working well for them, partly due to differences in how EU directives are implemented at Member-State level. As a result, SMEs face legal barriers when they want to conduct cross-border business in the EU. In addition, SMEs complain about the European Court of Justice's (ECJ's) costly and time-consuming procedure: it often takes several years for the ECJ to make a decision. By the time it has, market momentum will probably have been lost and the SME might have gone bankrupt and out-of-business. We therefore need to improve the functioning of the single market in this regard.

1. Does the Commission share these concerns?
2. If so, will it do whatever necessary to make sure the ECJ is equipped with a new 'fast-track' procedure, similar to the ones that already exist in several Member States?

This procedure should not take more than six months and should give the ECJ the chance to allow companies to continue doing business until it has made its final judgement, which often takes years.