

**Question for written answer E-003956/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: CRD 4/ Basel III

In its own-initiative report on revision of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD 4) (2010/2074(INI)), Parliament expresses concern about structural deficits and imbalances in the current proposal and warns of the risk of harming economic recovery and growth. It also emphasises that, given the current economic situation, monitoring will be necessary to ensure that banks are not passing on the cost of the forthcoming proposal to end-users of financial services. It calls on the Commission to ensure that, prior to implementation of the revised Basel II rules, their likely impact on the real economy is properly assessed, with a special focus on SME financing and on the resilience of the banking sector to stress.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions?

1. Is it examining how, under Basel III, a lowering of risk weights and a corresponding adjustment of asset-correlations for lending to small and medium-sized businesses would affect both the availability of financing for European SMEs and banks' risk structure?
2. Has research into the effects of Basel III on the terms and availability of credit for SMEs in Europe already been commissioned? If so, when can we expect the findings to be published?
3. Is any research available to it on whether the capital backing requirement for granular loans to SMEs, currently applicable in the Member States under the provisions of Basel II, is appropriate to the actual risk entailed in such lending?
4. Is it considering transposing the so-called 'Basel III conclusions' into European law in the form of a directive or a regulation, and what is the likely timetable for this process?