

**Question for written answer E-004014/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Giles Chichester (ECR)

Subject: Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) Guarantees

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) Guarantee serves to provide better access to finance and deliver business support services for SMEs. The guarantee loans are implemented on behalf of the European Commission by the Equity Investment Fund (EIF), which is usually able to invest 10-25% of the total equity of the venture capital for SMEs in their early stages.

The current CIP is expected to expire in 2013. What size of sums, with a budget of over €3.6 billion, is typically awarded under this guarantee initiative and what are the Commission's plans to extend this aspect of the CIP programme.

1. What is the average sum of a CPI Guarantee?
2. What are the minimum and maximum sums awarded?
3. How many guarantee loans have been awarded in the period up to December 2010?