

**Question for written answer E-008367/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Frieda Brepoels (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Implementation of Directive 2011/7/EU on combating late payment in commercial transactions

On 15 March 2011, Directive 2011/7/EU on combating late payment in commercial transactions entered into force. The aims of the Directive are clear: to contribute to the effective functioning of the internal market and increase the competitiveness of businesses, particularly SMEs.

As the present financial and economic crisis also entails enormous challenges for SMEs, the transposition of this Directive should make a crucial contribution to reviving the economy. The deadline for transposition (16 March 2013) is not far off. Unlike other Member States, such Member States as France and the Netherlands have already completed the necessary procedures.

1. What is the precise situation with regard to the implementation of this Directive? Which Member States have already transposed it?
2. What view does the Commission take of its implementation, particularly in the Netherlands and France? Are there any substantial differences between Member States? If so, what?
3. Does the Commission foresee any transposition problems in certain Member States? If so, which Member States and why? If so, what steps will the Commission take in this respect, and within what time-frame?
4. Does the Commission know how far transposition of the Directive has progressed in Belgium? What is the Commission's assessment of the progress that Belgium has made with it?