

**Question for written answer E-010431/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Riikka Manner (ALDE)

Subject: Decentralised innovation model for improving the efficiency of the European internal market

The European Union has developed its internal market very efficiently partly by breaking down administrative and bureaucratic obstacles and facilitating the movement of people, goods and services. However, it has not been possible to integrate these actions into the European internal market in rural areas and in SMEs. We need new actions to make it easier for operators in these areas to access a market covering the whole of the Union. In this way we would promote a the EU's single most central overall objective, and with better effectiveness of the European internal market we would also strengthen economic growth and stability. An effective single market will create new demand for itself and will also increase product development and innovation activities closer to the consumer.

Support for innovation has been centralised for years. The next step in the development of the internal market would be a decentralised innovation model. In this connection, for example, the international operation of the higher education sector could be targeted so as to offer SMEs a direct channel to find partners and niches in the European internal market. In addition, to launch the decentralised innovation scheme, departments could be set up all over Europe to demonstrate the products and services of the future, collect user feedback and seek for cooperation partners.

Is there any experience at EU level of applying a decentralised innovation model to the development of the internal market, and by what EU actions could a decentralised innovation model be supported?