

**Question for written answer E-003011/2013**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Toine Manders (ALDE)**

Subject: Public authorities in default: Member States which have not transposed the Late Payments Directive into national legislation

The adopted EU Late Payments Directive stated in 2011 that economic operators can force public authorities to settle their bills owed to private parties (economic operators) for a service or good supplied within 30 calendar days.

Member States had up until 16 March 2013 to transpose this Directive into their national legislation, thereby enabling all economic operators to force any public authorities in the European Union to settle bills within 30 days. One day before the 16 March deadline, only nine of the 27 Member States have included in their national legislation the provision that public authorities must settle their bills within 30 days. This means that a majority of Member States have not transposed this Directive at all. Cases like this continue to prevent the internal market from operating to its maximum potential and economic operators in various Member States from knowing where they stand when supplying a service or goods to public authorities. I would therefore like to ask:

1. Does the Commission agree with me that the transposition of this Directive is too slow or has not taken place, which is disrupting the internal market?
2. What practical measures is the Commission now going to take to get the Member States which have not yet transposed the Directive into their national legislation to do so as soon as possible? Can it issue these Member States with an ultimatum to get them to transpose this legislation as soon as possible?