

**Question for written answer E-008287/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Brian Crowley (ALDE)

Subject: SME frontier research and innovation support and international cooperation

SMEs are seen as the backbone of Europe as they account for the vast majority of businesses. In Europe alone, two out of three jobs in the private sector are in SMEs, and more than half the total value-added is created by these businesses. The Commission proposes that 15 % of the Horizon 2020 budget should be dedicated to SMEs, alongside a dedicated instrument which will foster innovative ideas.

The Commission has stated that funding will be allocated on the basis of the quality of the proposals as opposed to geographic location, and that it wishes to foster and develop 'outside the box' ideas. Could the Commission outline how it plans to communicate and engage with SMEs? What proposals are there for selecting and supporting projects?

International cooperation is to be encouraged through Horizon 2020 in order to address issues at a global level while also fostering innovation through cooperation. Could the Commission outline its proposals for developing and fostering such connections?