

**Question for written answer E-000832/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: European support for and regulation of crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is becoming an increasingly important mechanism for obtaining (start-up) capital. Experts estimate that in 2014 (young) entrepreneurs will obtain over EUR 7 billion of capital using this method, and in total more than 270 000 new jobs will be created as a result.

In the United States changes in legislation have given added impetus to this alternative form of funding. It is clear from the public consultation process which was concluded at the end of 2013 that the Commission has already recognised the importance of crowdfunding.

Crowdfunding has the potential to become a sustainable source of financing for new European projects and for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises. This is one of the points made by the Commission in its green paper on the long-term financing of the European economy, published on 25 March 2013. However, given that crowdfunding is a relatively new concept, the way in which it is regulated differs substantially from country to country.

Numerous Slovenian projects have been highly successful on various crowdfunding platforms. Although I am enthusiastic about the concept, I realise that its uncertain future means there are also potential negative aspects to crowdfunding, mainly concerning consumer and investor security.

In view of the above, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. Can we anticipate EU financial incentives for crowdfunding platforms in future and the professionalisation and registration of this alternative source of funding?
2. What does the Commission see as the negative aspects of crowdfunding and what legislative measures is it planning in order to tackle them?
3. What measures exist at EU level to protect investors and consumers in the case of funding for contentious initiatives?
4. When will the Commission publish the results of its public consultation on crowdfunding and what further measures are planned with regard to crowdfunding at EU level?