

**Question for written answer E-003100/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Michał Tomasz Kamiński (ECR)**

Subject: Directive on e-commerce

On 13 June 2014, a new EU directive on e-commerce will enter into force. There are serious indications that the new guidelines, which are supposed to improve the market for online sales and make it more secure by harmonising the rules governing that market, could in fact slow down the market and do serious harm to small e-businesses. Transferring financial liability for losses arising during shipping to e-shops and imposing an obligation on e-shops to cover the costs of return shipping will make it more difficult for them to compete with traditional shops, as e-shops will be forced to raise their prices in order to recoup their costs. The additional financial obligations will hit micro-enterprises – which account for a significant proportion of all traders in Poland – particularly hard.

Does the Commission realise just how difficult a situation small e-companies will be facing once the new directive on e-commerce enters into force? Are any measures planned with a view to supporting small businesses?