

**Question for written answer E-008383/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Francisco Sosa Wagner (ALDE)**

Subject: Increase in the level of late payments

The recent report published by the Spanish National Federation of Self-Employed Workers' Associations highlights the fact that, a year after the adoption of the Law on Late Payments, public authorities are still failing to comply with it. A particular cause for concern is that average payment periods in the public sector are still far longer than the recommended period, standing at 111 days compared with the 30 days stipulated in the law. Around EUR 2.835 billion have still not been paid, and this is seriously hindering the activity of many self-employed workers and micro-enterprises.

I have tabled two previous questions to the Commission asking whether Directive 2011/7/EU of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions had been adequately transposed (E-005940/2013 and E-000616/2014). Given that public authorities are failing to comply with the Law on Late Payments and ultimately with the above Directive, is the Commission intending to open some kind of investigation to analyse the reasons preventing public authorities from meeting the payment deadlines set? What steps will it take to remedy these delays?