

**Question for written answer E-002835/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**José Manuel Fernandes (PPE)**

Subject:     Reviewing the concept of an SME

During the last parliamentary term, the Commission undertook to revise the definition of SMEs and launched an impact assessment in 2017 and a public consultation in 2018. Since the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 on the definition of small and medium-sized enterprises has been in force for more than 15 years, and given that this is a dynamic, ever-evolving concept, I would like to ask:

(1)     How far advanced is the review of the EU's concept of small and medium-sized enterprises? When will a new Commission recommendation be published?

The Portuguese business sector includes a great many companies – particularly in the clothing, apparel and fashion sectors: labour-intensive industries that currently provide a large proportion of the country's employment – that do not always generate a turnover in excess of EUR 50 million.

(2)     Will the Commission review its 2003 recommendation in order to put an end to discrimination against labour-intensive industries and to prevent the risk of distorting competition?

(3)     Will the Commission amend the definition of SMEs to include companies which, despite having more than 250 staff, do not generate an annual turnover of more than EUR 50 million?