

**Question for written answer E-001640/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Henna Virkkunen (PPE)

Subject: Business transfers and SMEs

The EU's population is getting ever older. Entrepreneurs and business owners are ageing too, meaning more businesses will need to be transferred to new owners in the years to come. Smooth business transfers and succession are particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of the EU economy and account for 99 % of all businesses. Given this:

1. How is the Commission taking the need for smooth business transfers into account in EU SME policy?
2. How will measures to promote business transfers be included in the SME relief package?
3. Is the Commission planning to update the 1994 recommendation on the transfer of SMEs (94/1069/EC)?

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