

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0113/08

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Edit Herczog, on behalf of the PSE Group, Nicole Fontaine, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
to the Council

Subject: Steps towards improving the environment for SMEs in Europe - Small Business Act

Considering the importance of SMEs to Europe's economy and their contribution to the EU's competitiveness and employment, providing over 100 million jobs, contributing to economic growth, being a major source of innovation and promoting gender equality and regional development,

1. Can the Council confirm to the European Parliament that it intends formally to approve the SBA at the European Council in order to ensure the necessary high visibility and binding commitment of the Member States to its principles?
2. Can the Council confirm that it intends to integrate the SBA reports into the annual Lisbon Reform Programme reporting as a new, stand-alone chapter?
3. Which concrete actions does the Council intend to pursue to make sure that the positive impact on the business environment through the Think Small First principle will make a real difference at national, regional and local level?
4. Against the background of the financial market crisis, SMEs play a significant role in guaranteeing the competitiveness of the EU economy. Which measures does the Council intend to pursue to enable SMEs to have sustainable access to finance?

Tabled: 27.10.2008

Forwarded: 28.10.2008

Deadline for reply: 18.11.2008