

**Question for written answer P-012553/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Emilie Turunen (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Proposal for minimising administrative and regulatory burdens on undertakings

On 23 November 2011 the Commission submitted a report on minimising regulatory burdens for SMEs (COM(2011)0803). The report seeks to eliminate a third of all administrative and regulatory burdens for undertakings with less than 250 employees and an annual turnover of less than DKK 375 million. The Commission also wants to exempt undertakings with fewer than 10 workers and a turnover of less than DKK 15 million from a number of requirements.

The Commission's report gives a number of examples of EU legislation where it wants to reduce the administrative burdens on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including EU legislation on health and safety at work and the posting of workers.

Can the Commission confirm or deny that it intends to submit proposals, or generally support initiatives, to lower the quality of the working environment and reduce workers' rights for the employees of SMEs? If so, what is the timetable for submitting such proposals?

The deregulation of SMEs by, for example, exempting them from certain working environment requirements is very likely to lead to an increase in the number of accidents at work and greater physical and mental strain on employees. Does the Commission agree that deregulation will therefore in the long term be a greater economic burden than retaining and stepping up the existing legislation?

In its 2020 strategy the EU has a target of creating 'more and better jobs'. How is the intended deregulation in this proposal – and the consequent deterioration in the working environment – to be reconciled with the EU's vision for raising the quality of future jobs in Europe?