

**Question for written answer P-005367/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Paweł Robert Kowal (ECR)**

Subject: The impact of the Single European Patent on innovation and SMEs

According to media reports, the European Commission is currently finalising work on creating a Single European Patent. However, many NGOs and entrepreneurs in the Member States have noted that the provisions concerning the Single European Patent favour large enterprises at the expense of SMEs and have the potential to limit competitiveness and innovation in the less affluent Member States. Single European Patent provisions may also introduce too many national monitoring powers, which may damage the interests of entrepreneurs. According to some organisations, these powers are comparable to those provided for in the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement.

In view of the above, I would like to ask the Commission the following:

1. How will the Single European Patent impact innovation, particularly in less affluent Member States, and why?
2. What patent protection measures are provided for in the regulations on the Single European Patent?
3. What patent protection measures, in particular for SMEs, are provided for in the regulations on the Single European Patent?