

**Question for written answer P-006029/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**António Fernando Correia de Campos (S&D)**

Subject: Block on European Investment Bank funding for small and medium-sized enterprises in Portugal

There have been contradictory reports concerning an alleged block on new loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to fund small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Portugal.

The question of who is responsible for this delay has been the subject of an exchange of accusations between the EIB President and representatives of the Commission. Werner Hoyer has stated that the EIB has already signed a contract but that it is being held up in the Commission.

It has been said that more than EUR 1 billion could be paid out from one day to the next if the Commission agreed. This sum could then be used by Portuguese SMEs and would help bring about economic growth and job creation in Portugal at this critical juncture in the country's recovery.

In the light of this serious situation, can the Commission give an urgent and unequivocal explanation of the circumstances and the reasons for this delay? When does it expect that this credit line can be implemented?