

**Question for written answer P-011167/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Susy De Martini (ECR)

Subject: Government compliance with the Late Payments Directive

Directive 2011/7/EU aims to ensure that companies are able to conduct business throughout the internal market without having to worry about late payments. Where a government purchases goods or services, the payment period may not exceed 30 days from the date of receipt of the invoice or payment request. The situation is particularly serious in Italy, where companies have to wait up to 170 days to receive payment from the government.

The deadline for transposing the directive passed some six months ago.

- Has the Commission compiled information concerning late transposition of the directive by Member States?
- Is it conducting a detailed analysis of the dire situation in Italy?
- Does it intend to invoke Article 258 of the Treaty to institute infringement proceedings against the Italian Government in an effort to protect Italian businesses against their government's casual approach to paying bills?