

**Question for written answer P-004532/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR)

Subject: SME participation in DIAS tenders

The Commission has launched an initiative to develop Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS) that facilitate access to Copernicus data and information from Copernicus services. In response to the requirements laid down by the Commission and approved by the participating countries, the European Space Agency (ESA) has launched a call for tender to establish the DIAS. Major procurements are set to be initiated between the second half of 2017 and the start of 2018, subject to approval by the Commission.

Will the Commission consider stimulating SME participation in the Copernicus programme by including a preference for SMEs in the planned DIAS tenders?