

**Priority question for written answer P-003608/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Businesses in jeopardy over the proposal for a regulation on combating late payments

In September 2023, the Commission proposed a regulation on combating late payment in commercial transactions. Retailers and wholesalers have all identified a major problem with this new proposal. In France, for example, the maximum payment term is currently set at 60 days from when the invoice is issued.

However, with this proposal, the Commission is planning to reduce it to 30 days. This very short deadline will have major consequences for the cash flow of businesses, especially smaller ones. These measures could reduce the cash flow of these businesses by almost EUR 25 billion in France and by almost EUR 100 billion at European level. This kind of impact on their financial situation will put their survival and, more generally, employment in France and Europe in jeopardy. The fight against late payments, however legitimate it may be, must not be carried out at the expense of payment terms and contractual freedom.

1. In light of the above, has the Commission given sufficient consideration to the risks that this provision will pose to retail and wholesale businesses?
2. What measures will the Commission take to limit the impacts of this regulation?

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