

Question for written answer E-001537/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Taking account of the skilled trades in legislation and cutting red tape

Increasing red tape is making self-employment in the skilled trades sector increasingly unattractive. Young professionals are discouraged from starting up or taking over existing companies. New information and documentation requirements relating to compliance with environmental standards, consumer rights and health and safety measures make everyday life more difficult. These requirements are often geared towards large companies and do not take the needs of small skilled trades companies into account.

Implementing these measures is often inefficient and leads to unnecessary red tape. Master tradespeople feel they are being mistrusted by the legislator, despite their qualifications. New reporting requirements give the impression that companies are under general suspicion. There is a need for tailor-made initiatives that take into account the diversity and reality of the skilled trades sector. Uniform measures place a disproportionate burden on small companies, although they are not the primary target of the initiatives.

1. Is the Commission planning to cut red tape to reduce the burden placed on SMEs, ensure the strict application of the ‘once-only principle’ and provide digital tools to simplify the performance of formalities?
2. How will the Commission ensure that the SME test and the ‘think small first’ principle are strictly applied to all EU initiatives and that the time invested and ongoing and one-off adjustment costs are compiled for each proposal and offset in accordance with the one-in-one-out principle?
3. Is the Commission planning to increase the involvement of SME organisations in the preparation of new initiatives, give greater weight to the contributions of representative associations and strengthen the role of the Impact Assessment Committee?

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