

**Question for written answer E-001682/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)

Subject: Measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the EU

Making up 99 % of European businesses and providing jobs for more than 85 million Europeans, SMEs are the mainstay of the economy, both at national and European level. However, they face a number of challenges, ranging from difficulty in accessing funding, recruiting skilled workers and training them to dealing with red tape and the cost of adapting to the regulatory framework in place.

The SME strategy announced by the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, is a step in the right direction.

In view of this:

1. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to improve SMEs' access to funding sources and the absorption of European funds, given that the funds directed towards SMEs are often fragmented?
2. How will the objective of significantly reducing red tape, limiting administrative and other burdens for SMEs and simplifying the existing regulatory framework be achieved?

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