

Question for written answer E-003361/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Financial challenges for Europe's space industry SMEs and supporting industrialisation through prefinancing of non-recurring costs (NRC)

The space sector plays a key strategic role for the European Union and SMEs play a key role in the space industry as essential contributors to Europe's strategic autonomy and competitiveness. In an annual study by SME4SPACE, the group representing these SMEs, the financial data of approximately 2 000 SMEs were processed. The study concluded that space industry SMEs' capital requirements are very high compared to those of other industries, but that external funding is almost inaccessible. This causes major problems in financing the investments required for scale-up and industrialisation.

The study indicates that the financial sustainability of these SMEs should be a primary aim of an overall industrial policy. One proposed solution is the financing of non-recurring (engineering) costs through loans by public authorities for investment in production capacity of SMEs. These loans would be reimbursed at the time of successful commercialisation.

1. Would the Commission consider the funding of non-recurring costs, similar to NRC financing loans for Europe's aeronautics industry?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose other targeted measures to address this gap and enhance the industrialisation capacity of space industry SMEs?

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