

**Question for written answer E-001668/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Christophe Gomart (PPE), Susana Solís Pérez (PPE), Zala Tomašič (PPE), Fernando Navarrete Rojas (PPE), François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE), Céline Imart (PPE), Isabelle Le Calennec (PPE)

Subject: Access to sole traders' business data

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has delivered important protections for citizens' personal data. However, its current interpretation regarding sole traders, who act simultaneously as individuals and business entities, is having unintended consequences.

Because no distinction is made between personal and professional data, European sole traders' business information cannot be processed by business information providers (BIPs) without significant complexity – such as conducting a legally precarious 'legitimate interest' balancing test or obtaining individual consent – with a wide variety of differing interpretations of the regulation across the EU.

The data gap results in greater complexity or even economic exclusion of sole traders, undermining the competitiveness of European small and medium-sized enterprises in the global marketplace.

In this context, can the Commission clarify:

1. Whether it is aware of these negative effects and their impact on the functioning of the single market, competitiveness, anti-money laundering support and the cost of complexity?
2. What concrete steps will it take to reform GDPR enforcement, enabling proportionate and lawful processing of sole traders' business data with a clear distinction between personal and professional data?
3. More generally, whether it will support BIPs through a practical, reuse-friendly framework aligned with the European Data Strategy and single market goals for fair, transparent and competitive markets?

Submitted: 23.4.2026