

**Question for written answer E-003536/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Claudiu-Richard Târziu (ECR)

Subject: Supporting the adoption of new technologies by small and medium-sized enterprises in less developed Member States

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Member States such as Romania are particularly exposed to high energy and administrative costs and have more limited access to finance, digital skills and qualified personnel. These constraints can make it difficult for them to adopt advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence.

1. How will the Commission ensure that its simplification agenda produces measurable benefits for SMEs in Member States with less developed economies and does not disproportionately favour larger companies?
2. Will the Commission consider strengthening the ‘SME first’ principle by systematically assessing the administrative and financial impact of new EU legislation on SMEs?
3. What concrete financial, training and technical support does the Commission plan to provide to SMEs in countries such as Romania to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies?

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