

**Priority question for written answer P-004591/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Safeguarding small and medium-sized enterprises support in the next EU budget

The Commission's proposal for the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework introduces a new competitiveness fund aimed at boosting EU industrial capacity and economic resilience. However, the proposal lacks clarity on ring-fencing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and SME-focused support structures, such as the Enterprise Europe Network clusters, and the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme.

Article 28 of the proposal suggests a consolidation of competitiveness instruments but does not specify minimum allocations or safeguards to maintain, let alone increase, funding for proven SME ecosystems. Given that 99 % of EU companies are SMEs, employing two-thirds of the workforce, the absence of clear protection raises concerns about de-prioritisation of grassroots business support in favour of large-scale industrial projects.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. Whether the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), clusters and Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs will be explicitly protected and adequately funded under the new 'EU for Business' network?
2. What guarantees exist that funding dedicated to SMEs will not decrease in real or relative terms compared to the current multiannual financial framework?
3. Whether minimum funding for SME support will be introduced in Article 28 or related annexes?

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