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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.12.2025)

According to a Eurobarometer survey carried out in the first half of 2025, late payments represent the second main barrier to growth for scale-ups and start-ups¹. According to a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) panel survey² carried out in 2025, late payments are still a systemic problem for 73% of SMEs, hampering their growth and investment potential, and threatening their competitiveness. According to the EU Payment Observatory³, payment performance in the EU has continued to deteriorate in the last 5 years.

In light of the above, combating late payments and fostering a culture of prompt and fair payments in the EU remains a priority, including by advancing with the negotiations on the Proposal on combating late payment in commercial transactions. On the basis of the referenced survey, the impact assessment of the proposal as well as further available data, the Commission will aim to map again the most pressing issues, in order to have a profound basis to pursue extensive dialogues with the co-legislators and stakeholders to identify potential overlaps and possible solutions. With the support of the EU Payment Observatory, the Commission continues monitoring payment performance in the EU, including through analysis and dissemination of available information.

¹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3359>.

² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/06c1431c-76e1-46e8-baa9-abde0e519434_en?filename=Presentation%20EU%20Survey_final_rev%20OS%20rev%20BS.pdf.

³ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/challenges-and-resilience/late-payment/eu-payment-observatory_en.