

**Question for written answer E-015628/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Follow-up to question E-010743/2015: SMEs and ambulance services

The answer given by Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska to question E-010743/2015 does not clarify the point raised.

Article 10 of the relevant Ministerial Order 1435/2013 stipulates that the minimum number of ambulances required to set up a business and obtain authorisation to provide public medical transport services by road is eight vehicles, with 15 registered workers (which is very difficult to achieve for new businesses starting out in the sector).

This means that a business already operating with fewer than eight vehicles but wishing to add to its fleet must expand to the requisite eight vehicles and 15 workers. Small firms must therefore achieve a high turnover before they can grow, and this is curtailing their opportunities for the future.

A further problem is that small firms which still fall within the SME category but have more than eight vehicles and 15 workers are forced to close if they lose business and are unable to keep the stipulated minimum of 15 workers.

Does the Commission not believe that the above Ministerial Order is clearly placing SMEs in this sector at a serious disadvantage, instead favouring large firms?

Does it believe that this restrictive measure is consistent with the provisions of Directive 2014/25/EU?