

**Question for written answer E-014716/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE)**

Subject: Support for family businesses in the EU

Family businesses are one of the biggest sources of employment in the private sector. One of their many advantages is the fact that they are closely bound to a particular location, and so can provide long-term employment in rural areas and regions which are unattractive to other businesses and investors. Family businesses also show greater social responsibility when dealing with their staff and in managing their human and local resources.

Even though family businesses play a very important role in the economy, make up more than 60 % of all EU businesses and provide some 40-50 % of all jobs in the private sector, they are afforded little importance under the current legal framework and in politics.

1. Exactly what steps is the Commission planning to take to support family businesses and help them to develop?
2. When does the Commission plan to carry out an in-depth analysis of family businesses and draw up a plan involving a list of proposed measures which would make the economic environment more conducive to the development of family businesses in the EU?
3. Will the Commission consider creating a single legal category for family businesses, which would make a real difference to the creation of future regulations?