

**Question for written answer E-014560/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Agreements with the EIF for the granting of credit to SMEs

According to a recent Commission press release, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and the Banco Internacional do Funchal (Banif), the Banco Comercial Português (Millennium bcp) and Novo Banco have signed guarantee agreements to increase lending to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and midcaps in Portugal. These will be the first transactions in Portugal to receive the backing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is being implemented by the Commission and the EIB Group.

The new agreements will enable the three banks to lend a total of EUR 420 million to innovative enterprises in Portugal over the next two years.

1. How were these banking institutions selected?
2. Are any other Portuguese banking institutions likely to sign agreements with the EIF?
3. Has the public bank, Caixa Geral de Depósitos, or any other public institution or the Portuguese Government on their behalf, signalled that they intend to sign similar agreements?