

**Question for written answer E-014840/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miroslav Mikolášik (PPE)

Subject: Support for social enterprises and entrepreneurship in the EU

Social enterprises put into practice the principles of solidarity and responsibility, and they combine the interests of their members and clients with general or social interests. The social and solidarity sector currently incorporates some two million enterprises – approximately 10 % of all EU businesses – and provides employment to around 14 million people. We have not yet tapped into the full potential of social enterprises, however.

1. What specific measures is the Commission planning to take to support social enterprises and their development, and what resources will be mobilised to support them in the 2014-2020 period?
2. How will the Commission help to set up business incubators for enterprises in the social and solidarity economy throughout the regions?
3. Will it set up educational programmes designed to support social entrepreneurship by providing information on how to make use of the tools and resources the EU currently offers, given that relatively little is known about these opportunities – in particular social cohesion funds – in the social enterprise sector?