

**Question for written answer E-015956/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)

Subject: Simplification of EU cohesion policy

Although, at the beginning of the new 2014–2020 financial programming period, the reform of the cohesion policy, in order to simplify it, has been implemented, the implementation, management of the European Structural and Investment Funds as well as related reporting and control are still complex for both beneficiaries, and authorities, in particular with minor administrative and financial capacity. Because of the complex procedures for beneficiaries, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, NGOs and municipalities in need of EU funding, they suffer a large burden, as these entities generally have neither financial or human resources, nor the necessary knowledge to successfully apply for EU subsidies and subsequently to manage them.

Does the Commission not think that it would be appropriate for Member States and regions to provide guidance which would specify how to streamline and simplify the control, monitoring and reporting activities, including the requirements applicable to the beneficiaries, in order to eliminate the weaknesses of the implementation of the cohesion policy and thus ensure the maximum benefits to the citizens?