

Question for written answer E-014592/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Maria Grapini (S&D)

Subject: Discriminatory practices used by supermarkets in certain EU countries

Suppliers and producers are unhappy about abusive, discriminatory and anti-competitive practices only being applied by international supermarkets in certain EU countries. Supermarkets are imposing additional charges on goods suppliers in these countries, resulting in an increase in prices and a restriction of competition on the EU marketplace.

In Romania, for example, a retail fee and shelf charge are just two of the additional charges imposed on producers that are not applied by supermarkets in other EU countries. At the same time, producers claim that by pursuing this purchasing policy, supermarkets are having an impact on consumer purchasing power. Supermarkets are also imposing other conditions, such as returns of unsold goods and payment on a sales only basis, which are causing major problems, especially when the product suppliers are SMEs.

What can the Commission do to eliminate discriminatory practices such as this and ensure clearer regulation of the relations between suppliers, producers and supermarkets, without impinging on the rules governing open competition on the markets, and to limit the power of supermarkets to impose unjustified 'special' conditions on suppliers and producers in certain of the Member States?