

Question for written answer E-015854/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Patrizia Toia (S&D)

Subject: Free competition in the clock-and-watch spare parts market

Major multinational watch manufacturers have bought up most of the brands in the clock and watchmaking sector and taken direct control of the market for repairs and customer services. What is more, they have stopped supplying clock and watchmakers with spare parts, effectively preventing them from running their businesses. They set prices and conditions for services that only they are able to supply, as they are the only ones who have access to the spare parts needed.

In a similar case, the Commission protected car repairers by ordering vehicle manufacturers to supply spare parts and technical information to anyone who so requested.

Does the Commission consider that Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market is being breached in the case of clock and watch repairers?

Is this, in its view, a breach of the principle of equal treatment?

Lastly, does it consider it should intervene in view of how this is harming repair workshops throughout Europe?