

Question for written answer E-015324/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Reduction in banking fees

One of the consequences of capital controls in Greece has been the rapid increase in the volume of online banking. These services incur bank charges and fees, thus imposing a financial burden on corporate customers as well as individuals who perform a large number of transactions.

Meanwhile, by the end of 2015, the total turnover from the use of credit and debit cards in Greece is expected to top EUR 7.3 billion, which is very significantly more than last year.

Under the provisions of the new EU Regulation [2013/0265(COD)], the interchange fee retained by the consumer's bank from the merchant's bank may not exceed 0.2%, down from the current ceiling of 0.9%. However, the merchant's bank will still deduct from the remaining amount a percentage of about 1.4% in fees, so the cost will be passed on to the consumer.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- What measures will it take to ensure that competition functions properly and that the increase in online banking is accompanied by a reduction in the amount of fees?
- What measures will it take to reduce the final cost of the fees and deductions paid by enterprises in line with the reduction already planned for interchange fees?