

**Question for written answer E-015026/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hans-Olaf Henkel (ECR)**

Subject: Online purchasing in the tourism sector

The topic of online purchasing both within and across the EU has been gaining attention lately. However, among the most important entities that operate on the internet, online travel agents in particular seem to have been enjoying a monopolistic structure. In fact, one group accounts for 60 % of all online travel agencies bookings in Europe and another holds most of the remaining market share. Together, these two companies control over 80 % of global online hotel bookings, a number which, based on industry estimates, is expected to rise to 94 % in 2020. This concentration of market power impacts the pricing of the goods offered by dictating the contractual terms, which also makes it hard for other companies to challenge them and increases the price for customers. Tackling these monopolistic structures with a full and well-orchestrated enforcement of competition law should be a major policy goal.

1. What is the EU doing to tackle these monopolistic structures?
2. Are there any cases involving investigations?