

**Question for written answer E-015412/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Stanislav Polčák (PPE)**

Subject: Discrimination against Czech food producers from multinational supermarket chains

According to information originating in the Czech food market, there are credible suspicions that multinational supermarket chains operating in the Czech Republic are treating Czech food producers unfavourably by applying a higher mark-up, given that more expensive goods do not sell as well. The outcome of this is that Czech food producers, despite the high quality of their products, have little chance of obtaining fair conditions for selling their products in multinational supermarket chains.

There are indications that the conditions imposed on Czech food producers in order to have their products sold by supermarket chains differ greatly from those imposed on suppliers from the countries in which the multinational chains originate.

One example that was provided concerned the price of butter, which supermarkets purchase at similar prices but which have vastly different mark-ups. While German butter sells for CZK 35, Czech butter sells for CZK 42. It is the mark-up that accounts for this price difference.

Does the Commission have information confirming or suggesting the existence of this practice?

Does the Commission consider this practice to be discriminatory under the rules of the internal market, or a violation of the rules of competition?