

**Question for written answer E-006073/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jude Kirton-Darling (S&D) and Paul Brannen (S&D)**

**Subject:** Action to tackle the refusal by Swiss firms to supply spare parts to clock- and watchmakers in the EU Member States

Clock- and watchmakers in the EU whose customers bring them watches and clocks to be repaired often find it difficult to carry out those repairs because Swiss watch and clock manufacturers, who in any case have a general agency in EU countries, refuse to supply spare parts if the clock- and watchmakers do not have contracts with said manufacturers.

On 15 December 2010, the Belgian General Court annulled a decision adopted in 2008 by the Commission which rejected a complaint by the European Confederation for Watch Repairer Associations (CEAHR) against several Swiss manufacturers of luxury watches. In its 2004 complaint, the CEAHR had alleged, in particular, that several luxury watch manufacturers had entered into an agreement or a concerted practice and committed an abuse of a dominant position by refusing to continue supplying spare parts to independent repairers. In its 2008 decision, the Commission had rejected the complaint on the grounds that there was insufficient Community interest to continue the investigation for four main reasons.

What action has the Commission undertaken to assess whether there is indeed Community interest in taking action against those Swiss watch firms refusing to sell spare parts, and to prevent this practice which is stopping people from carrying out their work?