

**Question for written answer E-008030/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marielle de Sarnez (ALDE)

Subject: A single price for books in Europe

According to the GATS classification (the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services), printing and publishing are considered to be 'Other Business Services' and thus cannot benefit as a 'cultural exception' from the protection of cultural services that the EU grants in trade negotiations.

Currently nine Member States practise a fixed book price system, so the same book is sold at the same price by all retailers: bookshops, newsagents, large multimedia outlets, supermarkets and hypermarkets and Internet sales, whatever the location and time of year. The purpose of the single price is primarily cultural as it is intended to maintain the richness and diversity of literary creation but it also has an economic objective in making it possible to maintain a dense distribution network.

What approach to the single price policy applied by certain Member States does the Commission intend to follow in the negotiation of free trade agreements?