

**Question for written answer E-008901/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Monopoly and protectionism in the heating supply sector in the EU single market

In Denmark, some 62% of all rooms are heated by district heating, and the law allows Danish local authorities to favour their own district heating systems at the expense of other systems which also bear the CE label. The owner is not obliged to use the heating, but does have to pay the district heating company's fixed charge and an entry fee for the connection, which means that individual, more energy efficient heating systems are not promoted, and this deters EU producers of alternative heating systems which are better in terms of energy efficiency, climate protection and the environment from selling and supplying to about two thirds of Danish homes and companies.

Furthermore, the Danish state and local authorities are protecting a monopoly supplier by requiring owners of properties to connect to district heating or pay to a specific district heating company.

1. In the Commission's opinion, is the right to require owners of properties to connect to a district heating network and pay an annual fee, even if the network's heating is not used, compatible with EU rules on the protection of consumers from exploitation by monopoly companies and with EU consumer protection rules?
2. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the implementation of the EU's rules on consumer protection takes place in a way which ensures that all EU citizens enjoy the same consumer protection?