

**Question for written answer E-009630/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (NI)

Subject: Subsidies for the Belgian solar panel manufacturer Ducatt

The privately owned company Interfloat (Glasmanufaktur Brandenburg) is the EU market leader in the field of high-value float glass manufacturing. The firm's main competitors include not only a number of Chinese companies (whose products are subject to punitive import duties) but also the Belgian company Ducatt. Ducatt is heavily subsidised by the Belgian state and in 2013 recorded a loss of €24.6 million on revenues of just €5 million.

1. Is the Commission aware of any figures on the size and duration of the subsidies reputedly provided to Ducatt by the Belgian state?
2. On what legal grounds has the Commission tolerated the granting of those subsidies?
3. Subsidies distort competition and are economically necessary only in exceptional cases. What is the Commission's attitude towards the fact that the unilateral grant of subsidies to Ducatt has put the economically successful company Interfloat under duress?