

**Question for written answer E-003835/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lorenzo Fontana (NI)**

Subject: Selective distribution system in the watch repair sector

The network of independent providers of watch repair services in Italy is formed of approximately 5 000 artisan workshops, a number which rises to 30 000 for the EU as a whole.

In recent years, however, the tendency has taken root amongst multinational corporations that produce the most well-known brands of watches to opt for a selective distribution system, thus raising the standards of service centres with the obvious aim of internalising all activities relating to watch repair. Independent providers of that service are now finding it increasingly difficult to obtain replacement parts due to the policies adopted by these multinational producers.

Given the very real difficulties this situation is creating for independent watch repairers, the repercussions for consumers of increasing repair costs and waiting times caused by producers carrying out the repairs, and the actions taken in this regard by the Commission, can it reveal at what point discussions will be opened to guarantee the supply of replacement parts to independent watch repairers?