

Question for written answer E-003925/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Syed Kamall (ECR)

Subject: Unfair business-to-business commercial practices

I have been contacted by a constituent who, since 2011, has been following the Commission's non-sectoral consultation on unfair business-to-business commercial practices.

My constituent tells me that the sector most affected by unfair practices (based on the number of responses in consultation) was motor retail, although a wide variety of sectors reported unfair trading practices (UTPs).

My constituent tells me that, despite this variety, in July 2014 the Commission published a communication setting out potential remedies for the food sector only. My constituent is confused by the Commission's sector-specific action on food, given the non-sectoral scope of the consultations.

1. Can the Commission explain why it is proposing to confine action to the food sector, and not to address UTPs in other sectors?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether examples of UTPs identified as requiring attention in the food sector were also identified as UTPs in other sectors?
3. Can the Commission confirm whether or not the vast majority of respondents to both consultations agreed that a 'voluntary code of conduct' on UTPs would be the most effective solution against UTPs and that the Commission should not explore further the possibility of regulation at a wider EU level to address UTPs?