

Question for written answer E-005114/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)

Subject: Commission's intervention regarding possible obstacles to electronic commerce in the EU

In spite of a sharp rise in online sales of goods and services in the Union, cross-border e-commerce is growing at a very slow pace. In 2014, some 50 % of EU consumers made online purchases, only 15 % of which were from sellers based in other Member States. This is indicative of persistent major obstacles to European e-commerce, one of the key components of a genuine digital single market in Europe. The obstacles can be private and contract-based or the result of geo-blocking, a phenomenon which prevents consumers from accessing specific sites due to their residential location or the type of credit card they use.

Can the Commission clarify the following:

- Does it intend to indicate whether the announced investigation into the existence of possible barriers to online trading, with the aim of verifying compliance with EU regulations on restrictive trade practices and the abuse of a dominant market position, has yet been launched?
- Does it intend to indicate what action it proposes against entities which may deliberately obstruct cross-border sales of goods, thereby impeding the free movement of goods and services, with negative consequences for both European citizens and entities?