

**Question for written answer E-008304/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Price discrimination and retailers

Another factor influencing the price of medicinal products is the profit margin secured by wholesalers and retailers. In this situation as well, major differences can be seen between Member States. The single EU market enables distributors and other market operators to purchase pharmaceuticals in the Member States where these products are less expensive and then sell them on where prices are highest. The market share of pharmaceutical parallel trade in the main importing Member States varies between 1.7 % in Finland and 16.5 % in Denmark (EFPIA, 2010). This practice, which was analysed and confirmed by the European Court of Justice, was said to be a mechanism for reducing prices on the sales markets.

However, it seems that parallel trade in general has not had a significant effect on reducing final selling prices. In other words, the difference in price mainly benefits intermediaries. In this respect, there are also suspicions of discriminatory pricing practices at distribution level which divide the market and establish important differences in access to medicinal products. What is the Commission planning to do about this matter?