

**Question for written answer E-013064/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Sale at a loss and abuse of power in the food supply chain

The President of Spain's National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) has expressed the belief that it is unreasonable to prohibit or make general criticisms towards the concept of selling at a loss, and has also said that in certain situations it can be competitive and beneficial to consumers.

It is clear that an abuse of power is taking place since the European Commission and European Parliament themselves are working on 'tackling unfair trading practices in the business-to-business food supply chain'.

Under the EU budget for 2016, funding will be set aside to support new producers' organisations, with a view to giving farmers better negotiating power with the other parties in the chain.

Does it not represent a violation of competition rules to allow the strongest link in the chain to impose sale at a loss upon food producers?

Is the practice of 'sale at a loss' not unfair on those businesses that are doing the right thing?

What action does the Commission intend to take in respect of the CNMC's stance condoning the abuse of power?