

**Question for written answer E-001373/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Giorgos Grammatikakis (S&D)**

Subject: Scrapping of the fixed book price

The majority of Member States apply a fixed book price. The aim is to support pluralism and diversity of opinion, and to enable the publication and circulation of specific books with small readerships, which would have not been economically viable under free market conditions.

In Greece, the fixed book price was actually scrapped in 2014 as part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development toolkit. The Commission has promoted this policy through its participation in the troika, as is clear from your answer to written question P-001399/2014. However, scrapping the fixed book price has exacerbated the situation of a book industry already ravaged by the economic crisis, hitting small and regional bookshops hardest.

In view of the above, could the Commission please state:

- What have been the trends in book and publication prices and sales, and in employment levels in the industry, as a result of the increased competitiveness anticipated from scrapping the fixed book price?
- Will it approve the introduction of a fixed book price in Member States that want to do so, in line with Court of Justice case-law, to safeguard and place on an equal footing the rights of all Member States deriving from the principle of subsidiarity, regardless of whether they are taking part in an adjustment programme?