

Question for written answer E-001408/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: A single book price

In recent days, publishing organisations have informed us of their concern at Greece's new book pricing law. According to their information, the fixed price applies only to first-edition works of fiction and children's books, engendering confusion and sparking a price war. This reform appears to have been a condition of the financial support Greece received, despite the fact that retail book pricing falls within the scope of the powers of Member States.

I wish to echo their concern, and would like to know whether an EU Member State has the power and jurisdiction to implement whatever book pricing system it sees fit. Is the quartet of the IMF, the ECB, the Commission and the ESM authorised to force Greece to make legislative amendments affecting cultural goods such as books? Does the Commission consider Greece's new law to be an example that should be followed by other Member States?