

**Question for written answer E-001689/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Hannu Takkula (ALDE)

Subject: Monopoly on the sale of alcohol in Finland and an increase in the alcohol content of fermentation products available for sale at food shops

Alko Oy is an undertaking owned by the Finnish State, a public monopoly, which has a national derogation in Finland under the EU Accession Treaty for its resale monopoly, which means its sole right to the retail sale of beverages containing more than 4.7% alcohol, with the exception of Finnish farm wines obtained by fermentation from fruit or berries other than grapes.

What view would the Commission take of Alko's monopoly if national legislation were to raise the lower limit applicable to the monopoly on the retail of alcoholic beverages to 6% or 8.5%?