

**Question for written answer E-009291/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The cartel of petroleum-producing countries (OPEC)

Through its public statements the EU stresses the principle of fair competition and promotes market liberalisation and the elimination of economic cartels. Moreover, the Commission is responsible for imposing sanctions in cases of monopolistic behaviour.

One of the best known and most successful cartels is that of OPEC. This cartel of petroleum-producing countries accounts for nearly 40% of world production and 70% of known oil reserves. According to its website,¹ its objective is to control both the production and the price of oil.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Does it consider that the declarations and practice of the OPEC are at odds with the EU's position on competition and directly affect the internal market? If so, why does it not deploy competition policy against this cartel, as it does in other cases involving Member States (either by imposing fines in competition matters or by making comments)?

¹ http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en