

**Question for written answer E-001539/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

Subject: Bank mergers to create 'national champions'

In the last few weeks, the press has been reporting on two possible mergers between large European banks: the known possible merger between German banks Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank^{1, 2} and the lesser-known merger between Spanish banks Bankia and Banco Sabadell³.

The management boards of those banks have stated that only 'national champions' have the ability to secure a strong position in the global banking sector and compete with US and Chinese banks. That said, such mergers tend to have a negative impact on the stock markets. Furthermore, the stocks of some of the banks concerned were performing poorly even before the potential mergers were announced due to their conventional business structure⁴.

What is the Commission's opinion regarding the justifications for further mergers given by the banks concerned?

Does it believe that the banking sectors of some Member States are becoming too concentrated?

How would it respond to a further concentration of market players in the banking sector?

¹ <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2019/03/23/commerzbank-and-deutsche-bank-start-discussing-a-merger>

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2019-01-31/deutsche-bank-merger-with-commerzbank-looks-real-and-scary>

³ <http://www.expansion.com/mercados/2019/03/28/5c9c8e36ca4741fb5a8b45c3.html>

⁴ <https://www.eleconomista.es/empresas-finanzas/noticias/9787066/03/19/Oliu-no-descarta-fusiones-y-apunta-a-Bankia-Se-puede-plantear.html>