

**Question for written answer E-002167/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)**

Subject: The impact of the merger of Vodafone and Liberty (UPC) on the Czech Republic - Merger Case M.8864

The Commission is currently carrying out an in-depth investigation into the proposed merger of Vodafone and Liberty Global.

There is considerable evidence indicating that the Commission's investigation has so far been focused almost exclusively on the merger's effect on the German market, without any consideration of the impact on the Czech Republic. With a view to mitigating the Commission's concerns about the ramifications of the merger on Germany, Vodafone Group concluded a cable wholesale agreement with Telefónica DE on 6 May 2019.

Does the Commission agree that the Statement of Objections relating to the merger did not address the potential negative impact on competition in the Czech Republic and focused solely on the impact on Germany?

As Vodafone Group has seemingly made commitments that will only mitigate the impact of the merger on Germany – presumably because of the narrow scope of the Statement of Objections – how does the Commission plan to ensure that the Czech Republic is afforded a similar level of protection?