

**Question for written answer P-007722/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Inácio Faria (ALDE)**

Subject: Multidisciplinary law firms

The Memorandum of Understanding on Specific Economic Policy Conditionality (MoU), signed by Portugal, set out commitments relating to the market in services, including a commitment to reducing entry barriers in particular sectors, for example regulated professions. Point 5.26 called for Portugal to 'improve the functioning of the regulated professions (such as accountants, lawyers, notaries)'.

The draft statute of the Portuguese Bar Association, which the Government has submitted to the Assembly of the Republic, prohibits multidisciplinary law firms. The proposal, which is now being discussed, debars law firms from practising law alongside other professions; this applies whether firms are established in Portugal or are permanent agencies of firms based in other Member States.

Can the Commission answer the following questions as a matter of priority:

Given that – as stipulated in the Bar Association's draft statute – law firms will not be allowed to practise law together with other professions, what, in the Commission's opinion, will be the implications regarding the establishment of the internal market in legal services?

What does the Commission think about this ban from the point of view both of firms governed by Portuguese law and of permanent agencies of firms legally established in other Member States? What attitude does it intend to take?