

Question for written answer P-013046/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)

Subject: Resale price maintenance in the hotel sector

Booking portals are operating on the European market which include price clauses in their contracts with hotels. The price clauses stipulate that the hotels may not sell overnight stays on their own websites for less than the price on the booking portals.

What is the Commission's view of the fact that there are divergences in practice concerning the right of booking portals to maintain the hotels' resale prices, given that Article 101(1) of the TFEU prohibits agreements that restrict competition?

Does the Commission believe that there is free competition in the EU between booking portals and hotels to the benefit of the consumer when booking portals can demand a binding price from the hotel and can freeze the price of hotel stays by prohibiting hotels from selling stays for less on their own websites than the price for which the booking portal sells them?

Does the Commission intend to investigate thoroughly whether national approaches have led to differing practice among booking portals across the EU, and has the Commission thought of investigating the conditions for affected hotels in Member States where no national measures have been taken?