

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0047/03
by Freddy Blak (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: State monopoly on gambling in Denmark

On 9 January 2003, the Danish Folketing made its initial consideration of a draft law which would firmly established the State's monopoly over gambling. The new betting law will make it more difficult than it is at present for foreign bookmakers to break into the Danish betting market.

Dansk Tipstjeneste has a monopoly on betting in Denmark by law; the profits go partly to sports organisations, the scouts and political youth organisations. However, in recent years, foreign bookmakers have taken a large slice of the cake, which is why the Danish government has submitted a new betting law which prohibits foreign bookmakers from advertising in Danish media and Danes resident in Denmark from working on behalf of the bookmakers. Anyone doing so risks imprisonment and a fine.

Will the Commission say whether the Danish monopoly is a barrier to trade? If so, how does the Commission intend to eliminate it?