

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3087/03
by Bruno Gollnisch (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Commission criteria on concentrations

In its assessment of the legality of business mergers and concentrations, the Commission seems opposed to the actual establishment of any European dominant position, and not just abuses of dominant position.

What is more worrying, the Commission has on several occasions in the past (ATR-De Havilland, Legrand-Schneider, ...) and event recently (Alcan-Pechiney) given the impression that its decisions systematically sought to penalise mergers in which the dominant company on the world market was European, but were very lenient in the opposite situation.

Will the Commission outline the underlying principles of its policy on concentrations?

Is it clearly opposed to attempts by European companies to become world leaders in their field?

Is it opposed, as a matter of principle, to world-scale industrial poles being run by Europeans?

Will it state whether or not its position is based on a criterion of 'net benefit' to the EU or its industrial sectors?

Does its analysis take account of the employment situation in Europe?