

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1052/04
by Christopher Heaton-Harris (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: EU fines

On 24 March the Commission confirmed the €497m fine for Microsoft. Would the Commission give details of exactly what happens to the money raised through fines? What has happened to the money raised through the 10 biggest fines levied to date against companies by the European Commission, which all concerned illegal cartel-type activity?

(Hoffman-Laroche €462m; BASF €296m; Lafarge €249.6m; Arjo Wiggins €184m; Nintendo €149m; BPB €138.6m; Degussa €118m; Volkswagen €90m; Hoechst €99m; Knauf €85.8m)

What are the general rules governing money raised through fines by the European Commission?