

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6888/08  
by Catherine Boursier (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Complementary health cover for architectural practices in France, with respect to competition law

Should the legality of a French Ministerial Decree of 13 February 2008 which makes complementary health insurance cover compulsory for almost 30 000 employees not be reviewed in the light of Community law?

The effect of this Decree was, in essence, to give the Malakoff Médéric insurance group a monopoly on the membership of a whole profession, with the level of contributions being much higher than that normally proposed for individual contracts with individual mutual insurance companies of one's own choice. With the amounts reimbursed also being lower than with other bodies, the effect is a considerable reduction in the purchasing power of certain families. A petition on this matter has collected almost 4 100 signatures to date.

It appears that free competition in this field is hampered here by the fact that membership of this body has been made compulsory.

Should action not therefore be taken to ensure that France complies with the right to the freedom of competition (Article 81 of the Treaty on European Union) in this specific case?