

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1825/09
by Hynek Fajmon (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Unfair conditions on the pharmaceuticals market in the Czech Republic caused by the policy adopted by the regions

As of 1 January 2009, the governments of the regions of the Czech Republic elected in the last elections introduced reimbursement of statutory regulatory charges for medicinal products. However, the regional authorities make this reimbursement only in pharmacies owned by the regions or by bodies belonging to them. As a result of this policy, customers are being drawn away from privately owned pharmacies to those owned by the regions. This approach taken by the regional authorities is threatening the livelihood of some private pharmacies. The Czech Chamber of Pharmacists has already submitted an initiative to the European Commission calling for an investigation into this situation. I should like to ask two questions in this connection:

1. Is the approach taken by the regions in the Czech Republic compatible with European law?
2. If not, what action does the Commission intend to take in this matter?