

**Question for written answer E-010547/2010  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Emma McClarkin (ECR)**

Subject: Microsoft and competition rules

A constituent has written to me expressing concern about Microsoft recently purchasing a large number of patents from Novell. This move strengthens the hold Microsoft has over its competitors, which could potentially harm consumer choice and increase prices. Is the Commission aware of this situation? If so, does the Commission believe there have been any infractions by Microsoft of EU competition laws?