

**Question for written answer E-004019/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Philippe Juvin (PPE) and Christine De Veyrac (PPE)**

Subject: Competition policy - follow-up to written question E-010769/2010 - more emphasis on prevention

Compliance with the rules laid down by competition policy at European level is essential for the smooth running of the internal market. The objective remains above all to prevent practices that restrict competition, prevention being more effective in cost-benefit terms than a deterrent approach based on sanctions and the imposition of fines against companies that infringe the rules.

The emphasis needs to be placed on prevention in order to strengthen corporate responsibility. Some undertakings have taken steps to promote a culture of compliance with competition rules by developing internal good practices. Even though the existence of such initiatives does not exonerate executives from their responsibilities where disputes arise, it nevertheless demonstrates their willingness to promote a culture of compliance with competition rules.

When calculating fines for infringements of competition rules, does the Commission intend to take account of the programmes to promote compliance with anti-trust laws that some undertakings have developed?

Given that taking account of these compliance programmes could lead to lower fines being imposed on undertakings found to be in breach of the rules, will the Commission introduce individual fines against those directly responsible for committing the infringement (such as a ban on holding positions of responsibility for a certain period)?