

**Question for written answer E-012606/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)**

Subject: Consumer protection on fitness clubs' abuse

This year, the British Justice System has condemned the fitness clubs sector for breaching consumer rights.

However, this problem is not unique to UK. In many other member states, consumers are complaining about very difficult contracts with unfavourable terms for them. The greatest difficulties arise when the consumer wishes to terminate the contract. The penalties required by the fitness clubs exceed considerably any loss they could be caused by a termination of the contract and thus, the problem of disproportionality arises.

Moreover, the large chains of fitness clubs are suspected of anti-competitive practices (price fixing).

In June 2011, the Commission launched its communication on sport, which emphasized its benefits for European citizens. However, as long as consumers are not properly protected against fitness clubs abuse, there is a risk they might give up practicing sports, as fitness clubs represent one of the most important sports activity in urban environments.

Until the present time, has the Commission carried out a study in this field, both in respect of consumer rights protection and anti-competitive practices? If not, to what extent does the Commission consider that a closer supervision of this sector is needed?