

**Question for written answer E-000578/2012  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Mathieu Grosch (PPE)**

Subject: Restrictions in the choice of boxing materials

The International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) has members in 194 countries, 45 of them in Europe. The organisation has now stipulated that from January 2012 onwards all boxing materials used in national and international events must be approved by the AIBA. It refers to five different suppliers who sell these AIBA-approved products. These are located in France, Thailand, China, Germany and Australia.

The standards for the products permitted in boxing competitions, such as width, height, etc., were previously fixed but have now been changed. As a consequence, only those suppliers who have a license from the AIBA can sell boxing materials for amateur competitions, as only these suppliers are approved by the AIBA.

1. Is it compatible with European law that the AIBA should restrict the market for boxing materials to such an extent that only five different suppliers worldwide, two of whom are located in Europe, can supply the approved materials for national and international boxing competitions?
2. Is there not a danger that this obligation imposed by the AIBA on its members will establish an oligopoly?
3. If the answer to the first two questions is in the affirmative, what does the Commission intend to do to maintain the single European market for boxing products?