

**Question for written answer E-004696/2012/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Crescenzo Rivellini (PPE) and Potito Salatto (PPE)

Subject: Geographical constraints, Expo 2015

In 2015, Milan will host Expo 2015. In connection with this fair, an international call for tenders has been issued for ideas for the design and creation of service facilities to support the exhibition area. This call for tenders provides for bids to be evaluated on the basis of a set of rules which, all things being equal, awards a higher score to bidders whose design involves the use of materials derived from geographical sources within 350 kilometres of Milan, citing the need to protect the environment as the reason for this limitation.

- Does the Commission not consider that there has been a violation of European rules established for the protection of free competition?
- Does it not consider that the cited provision is contrary to Article 101(d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which prohibits the application of 'dissimilar conditions to equivalent transactions with other trading parties, thereby placing them at a competitive disadvantage'?
- Does it not consider that this attitude could facilitate or bring about an abuse of a dominant position by companies situated within the specified area and therefore holding a monopoly on specific materials?
- How does it propose to proceed with respect to the issue described, particularly in relation to the Community funds earmarked for Expo 2015?
- Does it not consider the calls for tender to violate EU rules, in that the clauses delimiting the geographical area create an unjustified protectionist barrier benefitting companies in the north of Italy and detrimental to those in the south of Italy, and to companies from elsewhere in Europe?