

**Question for written answer E-006946/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Anti-competitive practices in the aluminium market

In a written question addressed to the Commission from June de 2011, Mr Sánchez Presedo referred to allegations of anti-competitive practices on the part of certain multinationals that were said to be accumulating aluminium in their warehouses, thereby obstructing its circulation in order to keep prices artificially high. In his response of 5 September 2011, Vice-President Almunia stated that '[f]rom the viewpoint of European competition law, agreements or concerted practices relating to strategies to keep aluminium production off the market by a number of financial operators could raise competition concerns under Article 101 TFEU if they appreciably restrict competition'.

Now, recent reports in various media outlets indicate that the same company is engaging in similar practices in the coal market. More specifically, according to these sources, it is storing thousands of tonnes of Colombian coal at the Asturian port of El Musel (Gijón, Spain) with a view to selling it on the futures market for purely speculative reasons that are completely divorced from the real economy.

- Does the Commission have any information on this?
- Could these practices be in breach of EU law?
- If, so, what action will it take to remedy this state of affairs?