

**Question for written answer E-000766/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Horst Schnellhardt (PPE)

Subject: Use of EU funding to subsidise the Polish window and door industry to the detriment of other EU Member States

The Polish Ministry of the Economy supports the export of windows and doors manufactured in Poland with the help of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Yet the aim of these export subsidies is not to open up new markets outside the EU Member States, but to boost competitiveness within the EU's internal market. According to the information available, the subsidies are aimed in particular at supporting marketing measures carried out on the markets of the Member States Germany, France, the Czech Republic and Sweden.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of these EU-funded measures, which provide Polish companies with a strategic advantage on the markets of other EU Member States and seriously jeopardise the competitiveness of domestic companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to prevent EU funds being used to benefit individual Member States to the detriment of many others?
3. Does the Commission believe that the subsidisation of the Polish window and door industry violates Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which only permits subsidies to be granted to certain economic sectors in cases where they do not adversely affect trading conditions to an extent contrary to the common interest?