

**Question for written answer E-001902/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Mitro Repo (S&D)

Subject: Chimney sweeping, competition policy and the internal market

The European Union's competition policy has the aim of preventing distortion of competition within the internal market. Competition policy seeks to ensure that the same rules apply to all businesses and entrepreneurs operating within the internal market.

In Finland, a regional system is still largely in force in the chimney-sweeping industry; thus free competition does not exist in this sector.

At the beginning of 2013, Germany abolished its regional monopoly system for chimney sweeping, which had operated since the 1930s. Now chimney sweeps from other countries are also permitted to pursue their trade.

Although there is no European legislation on chimney sweeping, that does not mean that the common principles of competition legislation do not apply throughout the internal market.

Liberalising competition in chimney sweeping would be a natural step in pursuit of the EU's internal-market objective of allowing the free movement of goods and services.

The Commission has already adopted a position on chimney sweeping in response to previous Written Questions P-0966/04¹ and P-1377/99².

1. Will the Commission propose harmonising legislation on chimney sweeping?
2. Is the Commission aware of the situation in Finland with regard to the chimney-sweeping sector and its regulation, and does the Commission believe that it complies with the requirements of the EU's competition policy?

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+WQ+P-2004-0966+0+DOC+XML+V0//FI>

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+WQ+P-1999-1377+0+DOC+XML+V0//FI>