

**Question for written answer E-006748/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Boris Zala (S&D)

Subject: Request to investigate violations of competition rules in the Slovak health system
(registration No. 2015/088629)

On 8 September 2015, the Directorate-General for Competition received a request from the Slovak Doctors' Association (registered under No. 2015/088629) to investigate suspected breaches of Articles 101 and 102 TFEU in the form of the cross ownership by Penta Investments Limited of the Slovak healthcare system.

I believe that there are sufficient grounds for the Commission to investigate the claim, given that the company Penta Investments Limited currently owns the private health insurance company Dôvera, a network of 14 regional hospitals, a network of private medical centres and 200 pharmacies. This concentration of ownership and vertical monopoly give us reason to suspect that the entities owned by Penta Investments Limited do not apply the same conditions in transactions with other parties as they do with Penta Investments, and so violate competition rules.

The situation is all the more serious given that the health sector is so important and has a direct impact on the lives and health of all Slovak citizens, who could be harmed as a result of the actions of the Penta Investments Group.

1. What action has the Commission taken in response to the request sent to it by the Slovak Doctors' Association of 14 August 2015?
2. What will the Commission do to ensure that equal conditions of competition are applied in the healthcare system in Slovakia, in accordance with the relevant articles of the TFEU?