

**Question for written answer E-004559/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (PPE)

Subject: Applying precautionary measures in antitrust cases

The Commission has fined Google EUR 2.424 billion for violating competition rules in the online search engine market. The sanction is the result of an investigation that has been going on for more than seven years.

The decision could not be reached until the end of the investigation. However, companies affected by the unfair practices identified have reported that their business was severely damaged as a result of those practices during the years that DG Competition took to come to a verdict.

In the face of this situation, Commissioner Vestager has suggested that temporary measures may be introduced to oblige companies being investigated in antitrust cases to cease unfair practices even before those practices have been proven to exist.

The aim of those measures would be to have DG Competition respond to any sign of unfair practices in such a way that those affected by the practices would not have to wait the several years that it usually takes to close investigations of that type. However, the type of signs that could warrant introducing those measures has not yet been established, nor what type of measures they would be. Could the Commissioner provide more detailed information on the proposal?