

**Question for written answer E-004384/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Request for clarification concerning the acquisition of La Nuova Castelli by Lactalis

On 10 December 2019, the Commission approved the acquisition by the French company Lactalis, of La Nuova Castelli, an industrial group which produces and markets dairy products, including Italian cheese, butter and milk-based desserts.

According to the Commission, the merger in question would not raise any competition issues, given that La Nuova Castelli has a limited presence in the producer segment, within which there are a number of alternatives.

According to the same statement of reasons, in the distributors' segment, too, there are other major suppliers who will be able to compete with the merged entity in accordance with the rules.

Given that it is well known that Lactalis has a dominant market position, since it already owns trademarks such as President, Parmalat and Galbani, and in order to allay the plausible suspicion that this might be an abuse of the internal market rules, can the Commission answer the following questions:

Can it clarify, with the greatest possible degree of transparency, what specific reasons led it to take the view that this merger would not undermine the principle of free competition?

What does it intend to do to provide concrete support to the Italian workers whose jobs will be at risk as a result of the merger?