

**Question for written answer E-002690/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tom Vandenkendelaere (PPE)**

Subject: Further action against territorial supply constraints in the EU

Territorial supply constraints are trading practices that prevent retailers or wholesalers from obtaining products from a supplier of their choice in a Member State of their choice. A Commission<sup>1</sup> study published in November 2020 revealed that half of the retailers and wholesalers interviewed faced territorial supply constraints when purchasing FMCG products abroad. The constraints often consist of refusals to supply, changes in packaging and content or destination requirements. The study suggests that, if retailers were able to buy products in the country where they are cheapest, EU consumers could save an estimated EUR 14.1 billion (or 3.5 %) on their purchases and — equally importantly — they would have access to a wider range of products. In its recently published Annual Single Market Report 2021<sup>2</sup>, the Commission announced additional dialogue and cooperation on territorial supply constraints.

1. Does the Commission agree that territorial supply constraints drive up prices for consumers and limit supply?
2. What approach will the Commission take in the additional dialogue and cooperation on territorial supply constraints it has announced?
3. Will the Single Market Enforcement Task Force (SMET) also tackle this issue ?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/831c7de4-2a1e-11eb-9d7e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0351>