

**Question for written answer E-000276/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

**Subject:** Attacks against Carrefour and Mercadona by members of the Spanish Government

At a meeting of the Spanish political party Unidas Podemos on 22 January, the Minister for Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda, Ione Belarra, called supermarket chains Carrefour and Mercadona 'shameless' for 'getting rich on the back of the economic crisis' and accused their owners of being 'ruthless capitalists'<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, to slow down the inflationary trend that prices are on, the Minister proposed a price cap on food in supermarkets, as she says the stores are 'stuffing their pockets' as a result of this situation.

In light of the above:

1. By singling out specific companies as being responsible for inflation in Spain, does the Commission believe a representative of the Spanish Government is violating the single market's policy of free competition?
2. Does the Commission believe that a price cap on food in supermarkets as a means of reducing inflation is in line with Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>2</sup>, which states that the EU is based on a social market economy?
3. Does the Commission believe this to be the 'most effective and cheapest' solution, as the Minister stated?

Submitted: 31.1.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elindependiente.com/espana/2023/01/21/belarra-ataca-a-mercadona-y-carrefour-son-supermercados-capitalistas-despiadados/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A12008M003>