

**Question for written answer E-000343/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Deirdre Clune (PPE)

Subject: eBook markets

It has come to my attention¹ that the actions of international publishers and eBook platforms are making it impossible for university and public libraries in Ireland (and elsewhere in Europe^{2, 3}) to provide a sustainable digital service to students, researchers, teachers and members of the public.

The issues stemming from poorly functioning eBook markets include: (i) prices being up to 10 times the cost of an equivalent paper book; (ii) a refusal to license to libraries; (iii) a requirement to buy bundles of eBooks, as publishers refuse to sell individual titles; (iv) the sudden removal of purchased titles⁴; and (v) libraries spending huge amounts on collections that disappear within a short space of time as they do not own titles, but are forced to rent them where they can.

In the light of this, with a particular focus on publishers and digital platforms:

1. Is the Commission looking at the competition issues that arise from poorly functioning eBook markets?
2. What information would the Commission require in order to start monitoring eBook markets and launch an enquiry?

Submitted: 3.2.2023

¹ <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/spotlight/arid-40888490.html>.

² <https://www.gazetaprawna.pl/firma-i-prawo/artykuly/8374387,prawo-autorskie-e-book-biblioteki.html>.

³ <https://ukb.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2.5PL220331-Notitie-e-books-in-de-academische-bibliotheek.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40967093.html>.