

**Question for written answer E-001626/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Microsoft's acquisition of Activision

Initially, the Commission's investigation suggested that Microsoft's acquisition of Activision could harm competition on the video game market and inhibit the emergence of new competitors. In the end, however, the Commission gave the deal a green light, claiming that Microsoft had shown willingness to grant concessions that would remedy its concerns. Meanwhile, the UK Competition and Markets Authority has found these 'concessions' lacking, and the US has also blocked the takeover.

The Commission's own data reveals that the EU blocked just 30 – or a meagre 0.37% – of the 8 083 mergers proposed between 1990 and 2021. The Commission approves virtually all mergers, while professing to combat monopolies.

In view of the above, how does the Commission explain the fact that other authorities still believe this acquisition violates competition rules? Will it consider reviewing its decision?

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