

**Question for written answer E-003006/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Biljana Borzan (S&D)

Subject: Anti-market behaviour in the placement of essential goods

Rising inflation in the EU has resulted in new ways of defrauding the consumer. In Bulgaria, the national body for consumer protection (CPC) denounced retail chains for price fixing. Consumer associations are calling for better market controls to ensure that price fixing does not occur. They call for the establishment of market mechanisms similar to what exists in the UK.

1. How does the Commission plan to ensure the fastest and most thorough investigations of anti-market behaviour in the field of essential goods? How does the Commission plan to empower national authorities so that they have high-quality resources to analyse large numbers of cases quickly?
2. How does the Commission plan to step up its efforts to prevent abuses of dominant position on the market, particularly as regards essential goods?

Submitted: 11.10.2023