

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2752/99  
by Gerhard Hager (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Fixing of book prices

The Commission is considering a complaint about the German-Austrian agreement on the fixing of book prices. I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Does it believe that, given the protective function which competition is meant to perform, the current cross-border fixing of book prices complies with the requirement that the European Union contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States (Article 151 of the EC Treaty) and that this requirement should be rated higher than problems connected with competition law?
2. If not, does it consider national arrangements for the fixing of book prices which include a set of rules that take account of reimports to be compatible with Community law?