

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0831/00
by Claude Desama (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Regulation 2790/1999 providing for a block exemption for vertical agreements

Regulation 2790/1999 providing for a block exemption for vertical agreements¹ is having an adverse effect on tens of thousands of small and medium-sized undertakings forming part of structured distribution networks, in particular in the automobile sector.

The new block exemption does not contain any provision enabling suppliers to be penalised for any infringements of the rights of their distributors and retailers.

In order to avoid jeopardising the existence of many SMEs, which are the driving force behind our European economy, is it not essential to add to the regulation a 'hard core' restriction prohibiting licensors from taking advantage of the economic over-dependence of SMEs involved in distribution and the service sector?

¹ OJ L 336, 29.12.1999, p. 21.