

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2509/02  
by Christopher Beazley (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Distribution of newspapers in Member States

Is the Commission aware that, in order to be supplied with UK national newspaper titles, newsagents in the Republic of Ireland have to pay a surcharge (carriage service charge) to the relevant wholesaler, but do not pay such a surcharge in respect of certain Irish national newspaper titles?

Is the Commission further aware that the requirement to pay a surcharge is made possible because there is a system of exclusive distribution that applies to some newspaper titles, so that newsagents have no alternative source of supply?

Does the Commission consider that this situation is in conformity with the principles of the Single Market?