

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0323/04
by Werner Langen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Stage reached in examining the territorial monopoly of German chimney-sweeps

According to a review carried out by the Directorate-General for Competition the territorial monopoly enjoyed by German chimney-sweeps does not contravene European competition law. Nevertheless, the Directorate-General for the Internal Market has launched investigations in the context of proceedings for infringement of the Treaties. According to information received by the questioner the relevant hearings are now being scheduled. Can the Commission say:

1. whether the monopoly enjoyed by chimney-sweeps in the Federal Republic of Germany is a breach of the freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services laid down in European law;
2. what stage has now been reached in the review procedure and/or Treaty infringement proceedings;
3. when a definitive decision can be expected and in what direction the deliberations of the Directorate-General for the Internal Market in this area are pointing?