

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2693/08  
by Gary Tittley (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Cooperatives

Before taking a decision on the complaints recently brought against the cooperative movement by private businesses in Spain, France and Italy in relation to supposed 'privileged tax status' and 'preferential tax regimes', will the Commission bear in mind that comparing the cooperative movement to private business demonstrates a lack of understanding of the motivations behind the cooperative movement?

Does the Commission acknowledge that any decision taken against cooperatives could have serious affects on the sector and damage its ability to contribute to the Lisbon agenda in a socially responsible manner? Does the Commission also agree that a negative decision would undermine the Commission's commitment to the cooperative model of business?