

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5599/08
by Francesco Enrico Speroni (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Mafia organisations

Announcing the fines imposed by the Commission on nine groups of companies - ENI, ExxonMobil, Hansen & Rosenthal, Tudapetrol, MOL, Repsol, Sasol, RWE and Total - for having participated, between 1992 and 2005, in a paraffin wax cartel, Neelie Kroes, the Commissioner in charge of competition policy, referred to the companies involved as the 'paraffin mafia'.

Since the term 'mafia' refers to a type of criminal organisation whose unlawful activities - including murder, extortion, abduction and corruption - bear no relation to cartel formation, would the Commission explain why such an inappropriate and offensive epithet was used?