

**Priority question for written answer P-000392/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Serious distortion of competition negatively impacting consumers and SMEs

The EU boasts an astonishing variety of high-quality interior design pieces, including unique furniture and lamps. This makes the growing concentration of the EU's furniture trade market all the more worrying. The negative impact on consumers and suppliers can already be felt, and will only get worse in the medium term.

There is a commercial group in the furniture sector that has been becoming increasingly dominant without consumers realising it is one. Being on the market under different brand names only creates a façade of transparency and not real competition. The alarming share of the trade market just a few purchasing groups have managed to gain has also led to suppliers being unhealthily dependent. Because of this dependency, practices seem to have appeared that create difficulties for medium-sized manufacturers in particular and that threaten to irreversibly change what is on offer in the EU, and the reduced choice of supply and higher prices will ultimately negatively impact final consumers.

1. What does the Commission know about the furniture trade market becoming increasingly concentrated?
2. What measures will the Commission take to preserve the diversity of choice for consumers in the EU?

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