

**Priority question for written answer P-000493/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Bernd Lange (S&D)**

**Subject:** The procurement of fixed-price books by public libraries

In its judgment C-531/07, the CJEU confirms that the protection of books as cultural objects is an overriding requirement in the public interest and that measures restricting the free movement of goods are justifiable. Therefore, measures such as setting fixed book prices are clearly compatible with European law. Setting fixed book prices is a means of strengthening regional and local booksellers, so that access to books as cultural assets is as wide as possible. This is reiterated in a European Parliament resolution on the future of the European book sector (2023/2053(INI)). It is now being discussed whether public libraries' procurement of fixed-price books falls within the scope of European public procurement law (Directive 2014/24/EU).

In my view, pan-European tenders would run counter to the EU's objectives; prices are the same everywhere and buying from regional/local booksellers strengthens their specific role.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the purchase of fixed-price books by contracting authorities such as libraries?
2. What is the Commission's assessment of the scope for the national or regional design of public procurement law to provide clarifications on the exception for the purchase of exclusively fixed-price books by sub-central contracting authorities, such as libraries, in the context of Directive 2014/24/EU?
3. Does the Commission consider that the purchase of fixed-price books by contracting authorities such as libraries should be included as an exception in the directive? Will it take steps accordingly?

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