

Question for written answer E-003853/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Piotr Müller (ECR)

Subject: Why is the Commission tolerating corporations artificially increasing prices in less prosperous EU markets?

The Commission has for years tolerated the practice of large companies artificially segmenting the internal market and pricing the same product differently in different Member States (Territorial Supply Constraints – TSCs). According to a 2020 Commission report, as many as 49% of buyers had experienced TSCs. Products subject to TSCs are more expensive. Eliminating them could reduce consumer prices by up to 7.6% or EUR 14.1 billion per year. Particularly affected are smaller, less prosperous markets, where consumers pay relatively higher prices.

Instead of taking decisive legislative action, the Commission is postponing any solution until 2026, effectively preventing arbitrage, i.e. obtaining the same, cheaper product in another Member State. The result is a strengthening of the position of large corporations, which can segment the internal market and impose high margins at the expense of consumers and fair competition. This undermines the purpose of the common market, which should be based on equal opportunities and the absence of artificial barriers.

In view of this situation:

1. Why is the Commission delaying until the end of 2026 the introduction of legislation banning TSCs, when the problem is costing billions and is exacerbating inequalities between EU citizens?
2. How does the Commission explain its acceptance of practices within the single market that lead to inflated prices in countries with lower purchasing power, such as Poland and Austria?
3. Given that competition law is proving ineffective, does the Commission consider it time to bring in specific legislation banning TSCs?

Submitted: 2.10.2025