

**Question for written answer E-004483/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Unfair trading practices and failure to transpose Directive (EU) 2019/633 in the Austrian dairy sector

The Austrian dairy industry is dominated by a small number of dairy cooperatives that carry out collection, processing and marketing activities. This vertical integration means that dairy farmers have only very limited contractual freedom.

In a final judgment against SalzburgMilch GmbH, the Regional Court of Salzburg ruled that a number of contractual clauses were inadmissible, including as a result of breaches of competition law (Section 1 of Austria's Unfair Competition Act (UWG) and Section 5 of Austria's Cartel Act (KartG)) and of Directive (EU) 2019/633 on unfair trading practices. These structures have yet to change, however.

1. How does the Commission assess the transposition and monitoring of Directive (EU) 2019/633 in Austria, in particular in the dairy sector?
2. Does the Commission see the close links between dairy cooperatives, the farmers' union and Raiffeisen as evidence of systemic distortions of competition?
3. What steps is the Commission intending to take to ensure fair contractual conditions and market transparency for dairy farmers in Austria?

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