

Question for written answer E-004794/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Centralising competition policy – a blow to SMEs and national market protection mechanisms?

The Commission is considering limiting the role national antitrust bodies play in enforcing competition rules by centralising decisions in Brussels.

This idea is a step in the wrong direction. Member States have the best understanding of their own markets and have instruments that are adapted to local realities. Poland, like France and Germany, has put rules in place to protect small- and medium-sized enterprises from abuse from larger contractors – even where the EU would not formally identify the contractor as ‘dominant’.

National institutions such as Poland’s Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (UOKiK) are able to respond swiftly to local problems, while the Commission almost exclusively focuses on a few global giants.

Taking this responsibility away from Member States would weaken the protection of SMEs, which form the backbone of the EU’s economy. A balance between EU and national competences is needed, rather than centralisation and bureaucratisation.

In light of the above:

1. Why does the Commission want to prevent Member States from applying their own, stricter rules protecting SMEs?
2. How does the Commission justify centralisation, given that, in practice, it only focuses on the biggest technological companies and global mergers?
3. Does the Commission recognise that eliminating national competences would impact local businesses and consumers, undermining the effectiveness of protecting competition on the single market?

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