

**Question for written answer E-001027/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Developments in merger control and the competitiveness of European companies

The Commission has added a policy debate on revising the merger control guidelines to the agenda for the meeting of the College of Commissioners on 18 March 2026¹. Against a backdrop of heightened international competition, many consider the EU framework overly restrictive.

While it is essential to stamp out ‘killer acquisitions’, particularly by firms from outside the EU, a number of innovative start-ups, including digital start-ups, have voiced concerns about a possible tightening of the acquisition framework. A disproportionate and insufficiently predictable approach, based on purely speculative competition scenarios, could impinge on the exit prospects at the heart of the venture capital and private equity models on which these companies may be based.

In light of this:

1. How will the Commission strike a balance between preventing killer acquisitions and ensuring greater predictability and proportionality in merger control, particularly for innovative start-ups?
2. Does it intend to adjust certain parameters within the merger control framework, such as notification thresholds or the assessment criteria for non-horizontal mergers, in order to promote the growth and competitiveness of EU companies, particularly in strategic technology sectors?

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¹ <https://www.contexte.com/medias/pdf/medias-documents/2026/2/lpp-17-fevrier.pdf>.