Priority question for written answer P-000461/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Obstacle to competition in France's outlying territories: upholding EU law in the face of the high cost of living

France's overseas territories suffer from an economic and social situation which is unacceptable: prices of basic necessities are considerably higher than in mainland France (+ 40% in Martinique, + 39% in French Guyana and + 78% in New Caledonia) and are reaching excessive levels. A number of official reports and independent investigations have uncovered quasi-monopolies and oligopolies, suggesting the existence of cartel and anti-competitive practices detrimental to the people living there.

It is therefore likely that in these territories EU legislation on the transparency of company accounts and the functioning of the internal market is being infringed. The French authorities have so far been unable to resolve these difficulties alone so as to enforce European law and protect citizens effectively.

1. Does the Commission intend to verify France's application of Regulation (EC) No 2020/1197 and, if necessary, open infringement proceedings?

2. Does it intend to launch an antitrust investigation against the Bernard Hayot Group and the groups that dominate the outermost regions' markets in the distribution, transport, automotive, agriculture and banking sectors?

3. How can the concept of abuse of a dominant position be assessed differently in these sectors?

Submitted: 3.2.2025