

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000415/25
to the Commission**

Caterina Chinnici (PPE), Fulvio Martusciello (PPE), Giusi Princi (PPE), Salvatore De Meo (PPE), Massimiliano Salini (PPE), Letizia Moratti (PPE), Flavio Tosi (PPE), Marco Falcone (PPE)
(30 January 2025)

Subject: ‘La Famiglia — The Great Mafia War’

A number of press outlets ⁽¹⁾ have reported that German firm Boardgame Atelier has launched a product, ‘La Famiglia — The Great Mafia War’, based on the bloody Mafia wars that raged in Sicily in the 1980s.

The game, which even won an award at a games festival in France ⁽²⁾, challenges its players (aged 16 and over) to wrest control of areas from Sicily’s Mafia families.

In light of this:

1. Does the Commission not consider this game to be a massive blight on the dignity of Sicilians and Sicily itself? Is it not entirely disrespectful to all those who lost their lives opposing the Mafia in the struggle to uphold the rule of law, as well as to their relatives?
2. Does it not think that trivialising crimes that actually took place in a product intended for fun and, more to the point, young players spreads ignorance, goes against core European values, and disrupts public order (see the judgment handed down in case T-1/17 *La Mafia Franchises, SL v EUIPO*) ⁽³⁾, and that therefore the sale of this product on the internal market ought to be banned?

Submitted: 30.1.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2025)

The question of the Honourable Members does not, by itself, indicate whether there is any issue of EU law applying to prevent the marketing of the products under the name ‘La Famiglia — The Great Mafia War’.

EU trade mark law contains provisions to safeguard against trade marks contrary to public policy or to accepted principles of morality. ⁽¹⁾ Each case requires an analysis of how the relevant public perceives the mark.

There are precedents for a similar name. The General Court declared the trade mark *La Mafia se sienta a la mesa* invalid as being contrary to public policy or to accepted principles of morality ⁽²⁾.

¹ ¹https://palermo.corriere.it/notizie/cronaca/25_gennaio_22/la-famiglia-il-gioco-da-tavolo-premiato-in-francia-che-simula-la-guerra-di-mafia-scoppia-la-polemica-17dc8dcd-3370-4c88-9215-d1e800703x1k.shtml; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/23/outcry-in-italy-over-german-board-game-based-on-sicily-mafia-wars>; <https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/italie-un-jeu-de-societe-reproduit-la-guerre-des-mafias-en-sicile-et-suscite-la-polemique-20250123>.

² ²<https://ludovox.fr/retour-sur-la-37e-edition-du-festival-des-jeux-de-cannes/>.

³ ³<https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?text=&docid=200262&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=25949569>

⁽¹⁾ Article 7(1)(f) of the regulation (EU) 2017/1001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on the European Union trade mark (OJ L 154, 16.6.2017, p. 1). Article 4(1)(f) of the directive (EU) 2015/2436 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2015 to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks (OJ L 336, 23.12.2015, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ General Court, T-1/17, *La Mafia Franchises SL v EUIPO*.