

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003590/25
to the Commission
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(17 September 2025)

Subject: EU internal market rules and the activities of Barcelona's historic coin and stamp market

Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market aims to ensure the freedom of establishment and the free movement of services in the EU by removing unjustified barriers.

Its scope is broad and covers the majority of economic activities involving services, except for those expressly excluded by Article 2.

Barcelona's Plaza Real is home to a specialised coin and stamp market, whose *paradistas* (or stallholders) argue that it cannot be classified as street vending or non-sedentary sales, but rather that it should be classed as a unique cultural and heritage activity that has a fixed location and is a historical tradition, which could justify it being excluded from the national legislation transposing Directive 2006/123/EC.

In light of the above, can the Commission clarify whether a specialised market that is fixed in one location and has a cultural or heritage component is excluded from the scope of Directive 2006/123/EC or whether, on the contrary, it should be understood as falling within its scope?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

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

The Services Directive ⁽¹⁾ applies to all economic activities provided for remuneration, except those expressly excluded in its Article 2. Specialised markets, including those with a cultural or heritage character, are not excluded from its scope.

However, the Services Directive allows Member States to introduce certain measures restricting the exercise of a service activity if justified for reasons of overriding public interest. This includes, notably, the protection of the urban environment or the conservation of the national historic and artistic heritage. Such measures should comply with all the conditions laid down by this directive.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market (OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36).