

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004982/25
to the Commission
Rasmus Andresen (Verts/ALE)
(17 December 2025)**

Subject: Persistently high food prices, market concentration and competition enforcement

Inflation may be declining, but headline rates obscure the reality of persistently high supermarket prices and opaque pricing practices. For example, the German Monopolkommission finds that consumer food prices have increased sharply in recent years, particularly since 2022, and at a more rapid rate than overall inflation. Crucially, prices remained elevated even after some cost pressures eased, pointing to persistent price increases rather than temporary cost pass-through. The report raises serious concerns regarding competition, especially in view of the high degree of concentration and increasing vertical integration in the food retail sector.

In the light of these findings:

1. Will the Commission launch EU-level sector inquiries into the food sector to examine trends in the various components of the final consumer price?
2. Will the Commission issue guidance based on these findings under Article 102 on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, not only on exclusionary abuses, but also on exploitative abuses, including excessive or unfair pricing, in order to improve legal certainty and make enforcement more effective in highly concentrated consumer markets?
3. In its ongoing review of the merger guidelines, will the Commission better account for consumer harm where concentrations risk significantly impeding effective competition, including by imposing more robust structural remedies on merging parties?

Submitted: 17.12.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(5 February 2026)**

The Commission monitors developments in the agri-food supply chain, including trends in input, production and distribution costs that contribute to consumer prices. This is supported by tools such as the Agri-food Data Portal, Market Observatories and price monitoring by sector.

Moreover, the Commission is vigorously enforcing competition rules in the food sector. It sanctioned Mondelez in 2024 for limiting cross-border trade of chocolate, biscuits and coffee products ⁽¹⁾ and Delivery Hero and Glovo in 2025 for a cartel in the online food delivery sector ⁽²⁾. It is currently investigating the drinks ⁽³⁾ and salmon sectors.

Given the monitoring by the Commission and National Competition Authorities, among others, there are no plans to currently launch an EU-level sector inquiry into the food sector. Should new developments warrant it, the Commission would evaluate as appropriate.

Regarding guidance under Article 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Commission launched in March 2023 the process leading to the adoption of guidelines on exclusionary abuses. At present, the Commission has no plans to issue guidelines specifically addressing exploitative abuses.

As for the merger guidelines review, the Commission aims to update the assessment framework for mergers in light of new market realities, and case practice and the case law of the Court of Justice over the last 20 years, while remaining in line with the core legal mandate of protecting competitive market structures, particularly to avoid harm to consumers.

The merger guidelines and 102 guidance will apply to all sectors, including the food sector.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2727.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1356.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_737.