

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0623/08
by Karl von Wogau (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Compulsory calls for tender for fixed-price schoolbooks

Schools in Germany are obliged to issue a call for tender for the purchase of schoolbooks over and above the stipulated quantity. At the same time, fixed book prices are intended, inter alia, to preserve cultural diversity with regard to books and booksellers. In practice, this means that schools are obliged to put orders exceeding a certain quantity out to public tender, which creates additional bureaucracy. With fixed prices, it is clear that all tenders will come to the same amount. There is, however, the danger that foreign booksellers could win the tender, to the detriment of local booksellers.

Does the Commission consider that the extra bureaucracy is justified in this case, even though there is no economic advantage to be gained?

In the Commission's opinion, can the requirement to issue a call for tender for fixed-price books be lifted?