

**Question for written answer E-000376/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jens Geier (S&D)**

Subject: Monitoring of antitrust breaches in the EU

In 1994, the Commission declined a request by the Stichting Baksteen (IV/34.456) to allow for a block exemption for the Dutch brick industry under Article 81 (today Article 101(3) of the TFEU) for industrial restructuring of the production entities used for simple bricks. In 2014, Directive 2014/104/EU entered into force, giving citizens and small businesses the right to full compensation for the harm caused to them by infringement of EU antitrust rules.

1. Does the Commission regularly evaluate cases pertaining to breaches of antitrust rules, such as the block exemption of a concerted practice involving simple bricks?
2. Has the Commission received any complaints or notices about possible concerted practices?
3. What is the Commission's approach to protecting EU citizens and small businesses from damages resulting from concerted practices that may occur in the future?