

**Question for written answer Z-000013/2024
to the European Central Bank**

Rule 146

Auke Zijlstra (P/E)

Subject: Sources for the recent anti-trust assessments by the ECB

I refer to the answer to my written question E-001933/2024(ASW). At the European Parliament hearing on Monday 23 September 2024, ECB Executive Board member Piero Cipollone stated that the electronic payments market was dominated by a duopoly of two US firms, which, according to the ECB, charge excessive prices.

According to the Commission, there are at this stage no sufficient indications that EU competition rules have been breached.

The Commission stipulates that it ‘will liaise with the ECB to understand the concerns expressed by the ECB Executive Board Member’.

Since the alleged abuse of a dominant position by Visa and Mastercard, leading to excessive fees for retailers, is a primary justification for the introduction of the digital euro, which will supposedly charge cheaper fees to retailers:

1. What sources did the ECB use to conclude that Visa and Mastercard have a dominant position, and abuse their dominant position?
2. Can the ECB keep me informed of the outcome of the aforementioned meetings between the ECB and the Commission about the concerns expressed by Mr Cipollone, including by providing the minutes of these meetings?