

**Question for written answer P-006207/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Werner Langen (PPE)

Subject: Price and quantity fixing cartel in the Dutch brick industry

By the end of 2018, economic losses as a result of the activities of a 'price and quantity fixing cartel in the Dutch brick industry' will have reached EUR 2.254 billion – EUR 384 million in Germany alone. People building their own homes have been the worst affected.

Complaint proceedings for non-compliance with Article 81 TEU and with Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 were launched on 20 December 2017, but were halted on 11 June 2018. The complaint was based on the Commission Decision of 29 April 1994 in case IV/34.456 – Stichting Baksteen.

1. Why did the Commission halt the complaint proceedings?
2. What were the findings of the investigations carried out as part of the complaint proceedings?
3. Given that some of the origins of this problem date back more than 25 years, and that the Belgian (indeed Flemish) Competition Commissioner, Karel van Miert, was responsible at the time, why has this problem not received any further attention?