# EC/Slovak Republic Europe agreement: implementation of competition rules

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The draft legislative resolution stating Parliament's opinion on the joint position which the EU should adopt, within the framework of the Europe Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Slovakia, was unanimously approved by the Committee on External Economic Relations. As consultation was required in this case, the draft decision of the Council and the Commission was given the go-ahead by the legislative committee, since the clarification of basic principles and the laying down of rules in the area of competition policy constituted an integral part of the Association Agreement, which seemed fundamental to the efficient functioning of the free-trade zone being established in the Agreement. However, in the absence of a public-aid policy in the Republic of Slovakia comparable to that which exists in the EU, the latter has not abandoned the idea of applying trade protection measures, where appropriate.