

Reasoned opinion of the Swedish Parliament

The statement by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture 2017/18: MJU25 presents the Committee's examination of the application of the principle of subsidiarity to the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the food chain (COM(2018) 173). In the light of this examination, the Riksdag considers that the directive conflicts with the principle of subsidiarity. The reasons for the Riksdag's assessment are as follows.

The Riksdag considers that the question of unfair trading practices being used by businesses in the food chain should be taken seriously, but that such practices are best combated at the national level. There are a number of reasons for this. As recently as 2016, the European Commission said that it believed that a regulation at EU level was not warranted. The Riksdag believes that it is important that freedom of contract in Sweden is safeguarded. In addition to this, in the opinion of the Riksdag, it can be questioned as to whether unfair trading practices in the food sector need to be curbed by means of EU regulation. The Riksdag also considers that the Commission and the Government have not sufficiently clarified in what way the proposal aims to solve cross-border problems in the internal market.