

**Question for written answer E-005824/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Olaf Stuger (NI)**

Subject: Dutch timber procurement criteria in relation to EU public procurement policy

In 2011 a number of parliamentary questions (e.g. E-009809/2011) were tabled regarding the Dutch timber procurement criteria in relation to EU public procurement policy. The past three years have seen many developments with regard to this matter; however, the Malaysian Timber Certification scheme (MTCS) is still not unconditionally accepted.

The key question is whether the way in which the Dutch procurement criteria are being applied by the Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) is consistent with the EU public procurement directives.

1. What is the current status of the infringement procedure filed in May 2012 by a group of co-complainants against the Netherlands regarding the acceptance of the MTCS?
2. Does the Commission agree that the different treatment and acceptance of the MTCS, one of the main timber schemes on the Dutch timber market, is resulting in unequal market access for timber under public procurement policy, contrary to the EU directive on public procurement? If so, on what grounds?
3. What steps is the Commission planning to take to prevent the disruption of the level playing field for all sustainable timber on the Dutch and EU markets, and how is it planning to present this issue to the Dutch Government?