

**Question for written answer E-009328/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Inefficiency of European action on an eco-label for tourist accommodation

On 9 July 2009 the EU published a decision establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the Community eco-label for tourist accommodation (Commission Decision 2009/578/EC). However, a similar eco-label had existed for some time under the name of Green Key (<http://www.green-key.org/>). This international eco-label has already been awarded in more than 40 countries, 22 of them EU Member States, and is recognised by the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) among others. The Green Key rewards tourist accommodation operators who take a sustainable approach to energy, water, food, public transport and recreation. The label has a clear multiplier effect and it has been found that tourists do in fact check whether their accommodation possesses this eco-label.

1. Is the Commission, with this European eco-label, not entering into direct competition with a well running international initiative operated by an NGO, thus leading to inevitable fragmentation?
2. Should European funds be granted to initiatives which are already being successfully run by civil society, or can some cooperation be established so that these funds are used more efficiently?