

**Question for written answer E-002086/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)

Subject: European harmonisation of modes of transaction in the recycling sector

In France, special arrangements apply to the retail purchase of metals: it is assumed that a purchase and sale transaction occurs between a recycling professional and an individual making occasional sales and therefore not having a professional status. Since 1 August 2011, cash retail purchases of ferrous and non-ferrous metals are prohibited, regardless of the amount of the transaction.

This measure has been welcomed by French recycling professionals for four reasons:

1. It enhances the security of enterprises since they no longer deal in cash;
2. It discourages the theft of metals;
3. It combats parallel recycling channels that disregard existing environmental obligations in order to upgrade raw materials; and
4. It combats tax fraud, since only payments from one account to another provide financial traceability.

The fight against the theft of metals and the international networks involved is common to all Member States, as is the fight against tax fraud and against the development of illegal recycling sites which tend to evade environmental regulations.

What is the Commission's position regarding the European harmonisation of modes of transaction in the retail purchase of ferrous and non-ferrous waste? What action will it take in this area?