

**Question for written answer E-000519/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Streamlining the system for combating rights infringements on the single market

The single market has officially been operating in Europe for over 20 years. However, we still have a long way to go before we achieve a genuinely efficient single market throughout the EU. The constant introduction – both officially and unofficially – of new requirements, procedures, standards, certificates and even legal provisions, as well as the proliferation of diverse and often duplicate checks, does not further the cause of integration or development. This phenomenon is happening not only at national level, but also at local authority level and within professional associations. It is placing restrictions on the free movement of goods, services, capital and people. It harms honest competition and development.

A great many specific examples could be cited here: the Danish provision requiring margarine to sold in special six-sided packaging (why cardboard and why six-sided?); the Greek restrictions concerning the use-by dates of pasteurised milk, which differ from those applied by all other Member States; the additional certification required for food products in the Czech Republic; or the idiosyncratic standards applied in Italy on the juice content of juices.

In most cases, it is easy to demonstrate that the main motive is not the public good or consumer safety, but protecting domestic producers or service providers.

Regrettably, infringement procedures brought by the Commission against Member States sometimes go on for years, which makes it impossible to effectively combat such harmful practices.

How, therefore, does the Commission intend to address this problem?