

**Question for written answer E-004362/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Analysis of diverging quality of toiletries

In autumn 2015, during a meeting of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee when Commissioner Bieńkowska was presenting a communication on a strategy for the internal market, she came out unequivocally against discrimination against consumers and unacceptable segmentation of the internal market. She also sent a message to companies that the internal market cannot be built only where it suits them.

I have for a long time been drawing attention to the diverging quality of branded goods sold with the same packaging but with different ingredients in different Member States – a topic which in my view provides a clear example of the aforementioned discrimination.

Back in 2011 (resolution of 11 June 2013 on a new agenda for European Consumer Policy), Parliament called on the Commission to carry out an in-depth analysis of the internal market which would properly investigate the issue of diverging quality of products, including, for example, toiletries. Does the Commission intend to carry out such an analysis?

In addition to Parliament's growing interest, diverging quality is becoming a topic of interest in the Member States, too. The Czech Government, through its Minister of Industry, appealed to DG JUST regarding the issue of diverging quality, which in turn contacted DG GROW regarding washing powders. Given its duty to combat discrimination against consumers, what steps does the Commission plan to take in the immediate future regarding non-food goods, including toiletries?