

**Question for written answer E-008489/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: Divergences in quality of food

The issue of divergences in the quality of food made by the same producer in western European countries and in central and eastern European countries has regularly attracted the attention of the media and consumers since 2011. Although these divergences do not bring any health risks, consumers are being misled. Given that the producers and the packaging are the same, the consumer believes that the product's contents are the same in terms of quality. This is not always the case. Moreover, many products of lower quality sold in central and eastern Europe are more expensive than the higher-quality products on sale in western Europe. Consumers feel that this approach is discriminatory and that central and eastern Europe are receiving second-rate products. In 2013, Commissioner Mimica, responding to a question from Olga Sehnalová MEP, said that although food safety was the main priority, the Commission would investigate the issue of divergences in quality and take additional measures as part of the assessment of the internal market.

Since this issue is once again the focus of media and consumer attention:

1. What steps has the Commission taken in this matter since 2013, and what steps does it plan to take in the future?
2. Does it plan to introduce any proposals for new legislation in this connection, perhaps as part of REFIT?
3. Does it plan to introduce independent product testing in order to obtain comprehensive results?