

**Question for written answer E-008738/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Double standards for product quality in the single market

The single market is built around the principle of free movement of, and access to, goods and services in all Member States on an equal, non-discriminatory basis. It is therefore regrettable that, more than 10 years on from the eastward enlargement of the EU, there are still perceptible differences in the attitudes taken towards the 'old' Members States and the Central and Eastern European Member States.

One example of this is differences in quality between seemingly identical products sold in different Member States: even though the packaging is the same, there can be enormous disparities in the ingredients used. Producers very often employ double standards, supplying retailers in Central and Eastern Europe with products containing lower quality ingredients than those sold in countries such as Germany.

In so doing, they take advantage of the fact that shoppers have no practical way of comparing the version of a product sold in their country with that sold in western Member States. Because they are seen as less demanding, people living in Central and Eastern European Member States are fobbed off with lower quality versions of the same products.

This type of attitude towards consumers must be seen as unfair and at odds with the idea of the single market and the rules and regulations underpinning it. It may even be viewed as discriminatory. Is the Commission aware of the double standards employed by producers in the EU, and what does it intend to do about such behaviour?