Question for written answer E-001277/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Equivalence of certificates attesting to conformity with technical standards

The single market and safeguarding competition are two of the European Union's cornerstones. Competition within the single market is protected in every way, including through the removal of non-tariff barriers.

It has come to my attention that certificates attesting to conformity with technical standards may vary considerably from one Member State to another. This occurs in particular because some national bodies require clear explanations of all the tests carried out to ascertain conformity with a particular standard, while others are rather more vague in their requirements. I feel that the EU bodies concerned should demand uniformity here to ensure that competition between certification companies in the various Member States is fair.

1.   That being so, is the Commission aware that this disparity exists?

2.   Does it feel this constitutes a form of unfair competition?

3.   What will it do to remedy this?