

**Question for written answer E-006262/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Distinguishing publicly between synthetic and natural diamonds

There are two different types of diamonds: natural diamonds, formed deep within the Earth over billions of years under high pressure and at high temperatures, and synthetic diamonds which are created in the laboratory. This difference absolutely determines the market value and applications of the two types of diamonds.

Generally, very specific equipment is needed in order to tell the difference between natural and synthetic diamonds; for consumers, the only way to be certain that a diamond is natural is by requesting a certificate. Unfortunately, there is currently no general, globally accepted standard within the diamond industry (there is a non-binding ISO standard) on which such a certificate may be based. Consumers therefore cannot be absolutely certain about the nature of their diamonds.

In order to increase consumer confidence and inform consumers objectively about the nature of the product, it is essential to distinguish diamonds of natural origin from those of synthetic origin.

1. Will the Commission introduce a mandatory standard for the denomination and disclosure of the nature of diamonds (natural or synthetic)?
2. Will the Commission use the existing reference framework of ISO 18323 as a basis for issuing binding guidelines?