

**Question for written answer E-000005/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Telecom equipment in the EU

Ten years ago, the Commission published Directive 2008/63/EU which boosted the market competition for consumer telecommunications equipment. However, I still receive complaints from consumers saying that certain Member States do not allow a free choice of hardware, such as modems and routers. Two years ago, Germany began allowing their free use for consumers. As long as the hardware meets certain qualities, consumers are free to decide which hardware to purchase.

In other Member States, for example Belgium, only a few providers decide which hardware is available for use. For example, providers offer only one model of modem, which has to be used by all their customers when buying a subscription.

1. Is the Commission aware of the different interpretations of the directive in different Member States?
2. Does the Commission believe that, according to the directive, the consumer should, where possible, have the option to use the hardware of his/her choice?
3. Is the Commission investigating this situation and is it planning to take action to reverse this infringement of consumer choice?