

**Question for written answer E-000290/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Philippe Juvin (PPE)**

Subject: Fragmentation of EU law governing the public procurement of IT equipment

The EU Directive on public procurement (2014/24/EU) prohibits the referencing of brands in tenders (Article 42(4)) and states clearly that technical specifications need to allow public procurement to be open to competition (recital 74).

Member States are currently developing their own guidelines for the procurement of IT equipment in an effort to ensure that the legislation on public procurements and fair competition is observed. The technical complexity involved and the way in which component performance is described represent a major challenge. Calls for tender often simply resort to citing the names of products that are proven or are being requested, which in effect rules out the use of other products.

The introduction of national guidelines could therefore lead to the fragmentation of EU law governing public procurement, as the way in which compliance with technical standards and IT component specifications is evaluated could vary from one Member State to another.

To prevent differences emerging between national laws, does the Commission intend to develop EU guidelines on the public procurement of IT equipment?