

**Question for written answer E-002492/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Legal protection of the EU flag

The European Union flag is a symbol not only of European integration, but also of the unity and solidarity of the Old Continent, invoking its common cultural, religious and humanist heritage. The ring of golden stars on a blue background symbolises harmony between nations, a concept with which all citizens of a united Europe can identify.

Both national flags and the European flag are emblems which should be protected. Raising the EU flag together with national flags, for example on public administration buildings or on the occasion of national celebrations, helps to underscore the pro-European stance of the Member States' citizens.

Unfortunately, in these times of rising Euroscepticism and even anti-EU populism, EU symbols are not always treated with due respect in every country. There have been instances of the EU flag not only being verbally insulted, but also damaged, burnt or in some other way destroyed. The lack of punishment engenders a sense of impunity.

Should the Community not take greater care to ensure respect for its colours and symbols, foremost among which is the EU flag. Should the legal protection in this area not be strengthened?