

**Question for written answer E-004020/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Paul Rübzig (PPE)**

Subject: Introduction of EU medical standards for ophthalmology

Ophthalmologists are required to observe various standards in the course of their day-to-day work. Some of these are enshrined in agreements whereby professionals undertake to adhere to the 'laws' of the art of medicine. Rules of this type govern the ophthalmologist's relationship with patients. When it comes to determining a patient's powers of vision, there are standards laid down, for example, by the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO). On the other hand, there are EN ISO (European and International Organisation for Standardisation) industrial standards both for the manufacture of eye-testing equipment and for the conduct of eye tests and the drafting of ophthalmologists' reports.

In certain cases, however, the EN ISO and the ICO standards do not match. This can lead to situations in which types of eye test that meet the ICO standard but not the EN ISO standard cannot be marketed in the EU.

What is the Commission's view as to the possible introduction of EU-level medical standards in the field of ophthalmology?