

**Question for written answer E-011708/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Hubert Pirker (PPE)

Subject: Gradual harmonisation of hotel classification systems

On 29 September this year, Parliament adopted a comprehensive own-initiative report on the future development of European tourism policy (2010/2206(INI)).

It called on the Commission, inter alia, on the basis of the positive experiences of industry associations (e.g. Hotelstars Union) and representatives of the sector, to promote a specific initiative to gradually harmonise accommodation classification systems through the identification of common minimum criteria (Paragraph 27 of the report).

The Hotelstars Union, www.hotelstarsunion.eu, now has 11 members and draws up common criteria for the classification of hotels. It aims to make it possible in future for customers to rely on comparable hotel standards across regional and national borders, as customer satisfaction and quality are two quite essential criteria for successful and sustainable tourism.

1. What support measures has the Commission already adopted to back the development of minimum standards, and what are its plans for this sector in 2012?
2. Will the Commission launch a consultation process in which existing organisations such as the Hotelstars Union can take part?
3. Are there any specific plans as to how existing organisations can be supported in their work? What approach could be adopted in this regard?