

**Question for written answer E-003105/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Agnès Le Brun (PPE)

Subject: Irregularities in a public survey held by the European Commission

In the context of the review of the EU policy on organic agriculture legislation and action plan, the European Commission launched an open public consultation online, to last until 10 April 2013, providing all EU citizens with the opportunity to submit their responses anonymously. The findings of this consultation will help to ensure the development of new standards in the field.

Having been alerted to possible irregularities in this public consultation, I looked into the matter and discovered that it was indeed possible for one person to answer the survey more than once. This raises concerns with regard to possible manipulation, potentially steering the findings of the consultation in a direction running counter to the general public interest.

1. Does the Commission therefore believe that all precautions have been taken to ensure that the findings of this public consultation are reliable and impartial and provide the legislator with the best possible information?
2. More specifically, have measures been taken to prevent automatic, mass validation of responses (*flooding*)?