

**Question for written answer E-011618/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Andrew Henry William Brons (NI)**

Subject: International governance

Increasingly, the EU is implementing legislation which is global in nature. Thus, the 'country of origin labelling' (COOL) rules come from the WTO and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation.

It was recently claimed in the UK press that the EU wishes to make it illegal for garden centres to sell popular plant varieties (such as Hidcote lavender), when the EU is merely amending its directives on plant varieties in line with rules agreed globally by bodies such as the UNECE and the OECD.

Regulation pertaining to food labelling, vehicle manufacture, banking, insurance, fisheries and many other areas clearly originates from a network of global government agencies which compel the EU to frame its rules as if it were the European regional branch of a global government to which the EU duly defers.

1. Does the Commission agree that governance is becoming increasingly remote from the electorates of the nation states and even from the electorates of the EU?
2. To what extent do those who work for the Commission (and the EU) participate in the development of 'global legislation' and sit on global committees, including agencies of the UN?
3. To whom do such staff owe their allegiance and on whose authority do they operate?
4. Does the Commission consider the EU to be subservient to international regulation of the nature described above, which is issued from unelected bodies?
5. Does the Commission agree that one of the aims of international regulation as described above is to facilitate international trade and global governance and to diminish the authority of the nation states and even supranational bodies like the EU?
6. Why does the Commission not seek to defend itself when it is criticised by the media for introducing new regulation by pointing to its global origin?