

**Question for written answer E-000841/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ryszard Antoni Legutko (ECR)

Subject: On the differences in quality between products reaching the markets of Western and Eastern Europe

In those Member States which joined the EU after 2004, the debate on the quality of goods reaching their markets is one that is recurring with increasing frequency. Consumers in the EU are commenting on the shocking and insulting differences in quality between products on the market in Germany, Austria or the United Kingdom and those on the market in Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria. Studies carried out by the Association of Slovak Consumers show that these claims have a firm basis in fact. This was recently confirmed by an employee of one of Europe's largest retail chains during a hearing before the House of Lords. Double standards are being applied in the production of food and goods for Member States in 'old' and 'new' Europe. This is a humiliating relic from the past century which requires immediate change.

With this in mind:

1. What legal mechanisms can the Commission use to eliminate the differences in the quality of goods of the same brand on sale in various EU Member States?
2. What legal mechanisms can the Member States use to eliminate the differences in the quality of goods sold under the same name but with different ingredients in various EU Member States?
3. Should environmental and health rules, which often dictate differences in the chemical composition of individual goods, not be the same across the EU single market?