

**Question for written answer E-000058/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Claude Rolin (PPE)**

Subject: Suspected planned obsolescence of Apple smartphones

In a comparative study published by Geekbench in December 2017, the iOS operating system in Apple smartphones was tested.

This study showed that the processing speed in old iPhone 6, 6S and 7 had slowed down. Apple admitted that the battery power in these devices was deliberately restricted. The company promised to replace the battery (for a fee) so as immediately to bring performance back up to where it was before. These changes in performance were designed, according to Apple, to prevent the phones from suddenly switching off during peaks of energy consumption.

In this way, the company batted away suspicions that this was a case of planned obsolescence designed to reduce the lifespan of these devices and encourage people to buy new smartphones. The Paris public prosecutor's office, however, opened a preliminary investigation against Apple on 5 January 2018 for 'planned obsolescence' and 'trickery', following a complaint.

The results of this investigation confirmed user reports, demonstrated that a lack of information is preventing consumers from making an informed decision, and showed the lack of respect shown towards them.

How does the Commission intend to combat these practices to protect European consumers against concealed planned obsolescence?