

**Question for written answer E-001283/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Karol Karski (ECR)

Subject: Penalties for companies selling dual-quality food products

Organisations, Member States and consumers have, for a long time, been drawing attention to the fact that food products of two different levels of quality are being sold in the EU. This problem was ignored by the European Commission for a number of years, but thanks to the decisive action taken last year by Member States in Central and Eastern Europe, the shameful practice has finally been brought to light. In the meantime, several large companies have admitted to practices of this kind, following a campaign of naming and shaming. Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, decided to take action and announced that, as from May 2018, food products in the EU are to be tested using a new methodology designed to tackle such practices. The methodology for determining and comparing the quality of products is to be introduced in April 2018, and the first tests are to be launched in May, incorporating 16 Member States to begin with.

1. Will financial penalties be imposed on producers selling dual-quality food products? So far, the only punishment meted out to them has been their public naming and shaming.
2. Will the Member States be given new instruments to help them eliminate practices of this kind on their markets?