

**Question for written answer E-006059/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD)

Subject: Need to make the appropriate legislative amendments to ensure that all citizens have free access to harmonised standards

Harmonised standards – which mean, in accordance with Regulation 1025/2012, European standards adopted on the basis of a request made by the Commission for the application of Union harmonisation legislation – while being part of the body of EU legislation, are not available free of charge to EU citizens.

For example, Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, refers to such harmonised standards (standard EN 301 549 V1.1.2 (2015-04), thereby confirming their binding nature.

In spite of the fact that they are mandatory, those standards are accessible only upon payment of a fee which, in some cases, can be rather costly, especially for SMEs; this risks undermining the free movement of goods and services within the single market.

Precisely for this reason, the plenary meeting of CEN/TC 33 on 'Doors, windows, shutters, building hardware and curtain walling' of 26 and 27 April 2017 had – unsuccessfully – called for free access to harmonised standards for European producers.

In the light of the above, can the Commission say whether:

- 1) it is aware of this issue and say how it can be tolerated and justified;
- 2) it does not agree that all necessary measures should be taken, including, therefore legislative amendments to Regulation 1025/2012, to ensure free access to harmonised standards?