

**Question for written answer E-003676/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Elena Lizzi (ID)**

**Subject:** European harmonisation of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) requirements for the wood industry

The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) allows the same product to be produced and consumed in all 28 Member States. This harmonisation has benefited 500 million EU citizens. Unfortunately, harmonisation is today under threat from the fragmentation caused by Germany's new rules on and testing methods for wood products. The wood-based panel industry is currently facing the challenge of adhering to Germany's new VOC requirements, which will take effect on 27 December 2019, and its new formaldehyde emission requirements, which will take effect on 1 January 2020.

The wood industry feels supported by the Commission in relation to VOC requirements. A detailed opinion signed by Commissioner Bienkowska states that Member States should respect the CPR. However, Germany has not heeded the points made by the commissioner and has not adjusted version 2019/1 of its Model Administrative Rules on Technical Building Regulations (MVVTB) accordingly, which could lead to court cases. .

The case of formaldehyde emissions is different as a technical modification to the CPR has been unilaterally introduced, but not announced. The wood industry is free to contest this modification, but the Commission must have the power to take direct action in such cases to avoid trade barriers to the sale of furniture and panels within the EEC. .

Does the Commission intend to:

1. take action in cases of fragmentation (as opposed to harmonisation) that threaten the single market and thus threaten European prosperity?
2. ask Germany to adjust MVVTB 2019/1 accordingly?