

**Question for written answer E-005931/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Internal market and national rules

The internal market is one of the EU's great success stories and must not be jeopardised. It offers enormous opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from a harmonised level playing field.

It is therefore all the more worrying to see the emergence of a number of national go-it-alone initiatives – often citing consumer protection by way of justification – which undermine the Union's rules and procedures. This leads to a significant distortion of the internal market and to heavy burdens on businesses. There is often legal certainty in the EU, whether it be on a decision on titanium dioxide (E171), the labelling of the origin of individual ingredients or nutritional labelling, to name but a few examples.

1. What options does the Commission have to protect the internal market and thus small and medium-sized enterprises?
2. How can the Commission counter a patchwork of national go-it-alone initiatives, which lead to additional costs and a high administrative burden for small and medium-sized enterprises?
3. How can the Commission ensure that the Union's economy and businesses can have confidence in a science-based Union?