Question for written answer E-006089/2020 to the Commission Rule 138 Clare Daly (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Follow up to answer by the Commission to Written Question E-002285/2020

In his answer to the above-referenced question, Commissioner Breton said that Member States can 'put in place proportionate control mechanisms to ensure compliance with all applicable national rules' pursuant to the Services Directive, the Professional Qualifications Directive, and the Proportionality Test Directive.

This answer is fully in line with the legal arguments made by three membership associations of the European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations in their three formal complaint letters to DG GROW, namely CHAP0255(2019), CHAP0658(2020) and CHAP3605(2020).

In response, DG GROW closed all three complaints, refusing to pursue them. In support of its decision, it employed a rationale contrary to Commissioner Breton's. In essence, it argued that unregulated Sharing Economy service provision in the regulated tourist guide sector is a 'national problem rather than an internal market problem, it denied that there was the need to regulate the Sharing Economy, and it argued that the lack of harmonisation of Sharing Economy rules across the EU negates the proportionality principle of EU law.

Can the Commission explain the disparity between Commissioner Breton's reply and the position of DG GROW?