

**Question for written answer E-006503/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Isabella Tovaglieri (ID)

Subject: Question about open-source software, re-use and interoperability of information, and choices made by Consip

In order to make the work of government departments and their relations with citizens effective, as well as increasing transparency, a wide-ranging re-use and interoperability of public sector information needs to be allowed – a principle that has already been set out in Directive 2003/98/EC.

It is therefore astonishing that, in its latest major software tender, the Italian public procurement centre 'Consip' preferred not to opt for open-source systems; this choice does not facilitate the re-use and interoperability of public sector information. Moreover, it was made at an off-market price, without directly contacting the original software manufacturer. In addition, non-open-source systems purchased through the tender would create burdensome constraints for the future, influencing subsequent options available to Italian government departments.

Can the Commission say whether:

it is aware of this choice made by Consip;

this decision to purchase non-open-source software does not run counter to the principle of re-use and interoperability of data, a principle that has already existed in EU law since Directive 2003/98 and subsequent amendments?