

Question for written answer E-000729/2022/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Free access to the ISO 80000 publication could help make the European Union more effective

The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) manages, among other things, the world's most widely used measurement system, the International System of Units (SI).

The system is based on seven base units (second, metre, kilogram, ampere, kelvin, mole, candela) derived from natural constants such as the speed of light in a vacuum.

The use of symbols is prescribed in science (physics, chemistry, mathematics), education, engineering and other disciplines.

So as to avoid any doubt in everyday use, the ways in which the names and units are used are set out in the publication 'ISO 80000 Quantities and Units'.

But the full publication is not available to the public free of charge, so people often make mistakes.

However, the units in the measurement system are a public good and their consistent use is in the public interest (the prescribed use of the symbol for a second is 's', not 'sec'; the unit of energy is joule or 'J', not calories or 'cal', and so on).

I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Does it agree that free access to the ISO 80000 publication could help make the European Union more effective?
2. Could the Commission purchase the rights to ISO 80000 through Horizon Europe or some other European programme and make it available to anyone on payment only of the material costs involved (i.e. not a disproportionate charge)?