

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0693/09  
by Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Community eco-labelling scheme (COM(2008) 0401)

Under existing Community legislation, the eco-label is awarded to goods and services which comply with strict environmental criteria that are rigorously assessed. The assessment requires a detailed analysis of documentation and research reports and often involves complex calculations.

Under the registration procedure proposed by the Commission, undertakings have to produce a declaration that the criteria have been met (without even having to sign the producer's declaration, which is nevertheless a legal requirement), while the role of the competent body is confined to checking that the registration application is complete.

At the same time, under the proposed regulation, verification will not be the same in the different Member States, since it will depend on the human and financial resources available, the methods used and the frequency of checks. As a result, the loss of credibility of the procedure for checking whether goods or services meet the required criteria will not be offset either by the market checks required of the competent bodies or by the proposed system of penalties.

In the light of the above, will the Commission answer two questions of vital importance to European consumers: namely, how will it ensure that undertakings interpret and apply the ecological criteria properly and how can it ensure that the markets are subject to appropriate checks?