

**Question for written answer E-014809/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)

Subject: Loopholes and fraud in test procedures for household appliances

In the weeks following the VW scandal, we have again been seeing allegations and reports of comparable unscrupulous practices in the household appliances sector, in particular regarding televisions, refrigerators and vacuum cleaners.

It has been alleged that some manufacturers are using loopholes in the relevant standards and measurement methods in order to gain a better energy efficiency class on the energy efficiency label (for example by installing software that recognises when the appliance is under test conditions, which then sets off a mechanism that minimises input power).

This would appear not only to undermine the energy efficiency label as a whole, but also, more importantly, to mislead consumers.

If these allegations are true, what steps does the Commission intend to take in order to close such loopholes in measurement methods and standards so as to ensure that energy efficiency is indeed properly represented on the label and consumers are not misled?