

**Question for written answer E-015897/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Andreas Schwab (PPE)**

Subject: Different fire safety standards for upholstered furniture in the internal market

In some Member States, stringent requirements apply to fire safety in private homes. This is true, for example, of national standard BS 5852, which lays down particularly strict requirements for flame retardants in upholstered furniture.

However, some scientists also believe that possible health risks associated with the use of upholstered furniture treated with flame retardants in private buildings, and arising from the fumes released if a fire does occur, should be classified as dangerous. The use, processing and recycling of flame retardants are also not free of environmental impact.

Moreover, the requirements of standard BS 5852 have had economic effects on the internal market. Goods intended for the EU market cannot be exported to Britain and Ireland. At the same time, it is not possible to market British and Irish goods in the other Member States without high costs and adjustments.

1. What view does the Commission take of the impact of standard BS 5852 on the internal market?  
Are the differences in requirements justified?
2. Does the Commission consider it necessary to examine more thoroughly, or to modify, this situation on grounds of possible restriction of the free movement of goods and competition on the internal market, for the benefit of businesses and consumers?