

**Question for written answer E-015970/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Axel Voss (PPE)**

Subject: Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities

Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities came into force on 16 June 2014. The Regulation in question establishes, amongst other things, the obligation to rotate statutory auditors, and contains provisions relating to the admissibility of non-audit services by statutory auditors.

While the above Regulation does fix a maximum duration of 10 years for the engagement of a statutory auditor, this duration may be increased or shortened by Member States. Member States are also afforded other rights of choice, with regards to the scope of permitted non-audit services by statutory auditors, and other regulatory contents of the Regulation, including that of extending the list of prohibited audit services.

Some corporate groups in Europe are formed of more than 20 public-interest entities. If Member States actually choose to exercise their rights of choice in different ways, it is to be expected that these entities will be faced with a 'patchwork rug' of conflicting provisions within the EU.

In light of the above, can the Commission please answer the following questions:

What effect does it believe these contrasting provisions will have on the quality of statutory audit in European businesses?

What measures does it intend to adopt to harmonise provisions for corporate groups with operations throughout Europe?

Would it not be more expedient to establish a regulation according to which the rights of the parent company, as laid down in the above Regulation, apply to all of its subsidiaries?