

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2665/07
by Karl von Wogau (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Restriction of cross-border competition by the failure of a French certification centre to allocate a Qualisol number to a German firm

A firm from the district of Ortenau (Germany) that installs heating and solar equipment has successfully installed solar equipment in neighbouring Alsace over recent years. For customers to be able to apply for a State subsidy, the installing firm must have certification (Charte Qualisol). An application has to be made for this (formulaire d'adhésion à l'appellation Qualisol). Until recently the application could be made in the region (Délégation régionale Alsace in Strasbourg). The German firm obtained certification there without any problem. Since last year, however, the application has had to be made in Paris. The firm in question has done this. However, the office responsible in Paris (Qualit'EnR, 37 rue Lafayette, F-75009 Paris) does not answer and has issued no certification. Without the certificate, French customers will not employ the German firm because they would not be able to apply for a subsidy for their solar installation.

What is the European Commission's view of this situation?

Does the Commission see the behaviour of the French certification centre as a violation of cross-border competition law?

What does the European Commission envisage doing in this case?