

**Question for written answer E-004682/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Daniel Caspary (PPE)

Subject: National regulation of origin labelling in Italy

On 24 December 2003, the Italian Parliament passed Law No 350 (Law 350/2003), governing, inter alia, the labelling of imported and exported goods. Article 4(49) of the Law stipulates that both imported and exported goods are illegal if they bear false or misleading origin labelling. The highest Italian customs authority observes in its guidance for importers dating from 2005 (Memorandum 2704 29-8-2005) that compliance with the applicable laws 126/2001 and 350/2003 is guaranteed if the imported goods are clearly marked with the legend 'Imported by: name and address of importer'. If the importer's name and address are indicated without the words 'Imported by', this is deemed to constitute misleading origin labelling and therefore to be illegal, as the indications might mislead consumers. Importers of goods into Italy are therefore required to label goods clearly with 'Made in: country of manufacture' or 'Imported by: name and address of importer'. In the 'Circolare esplicativa del Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico prot. n. 124898 del 9/11/2009 sull'art.4 comma 49-bis della legge 24 dicembre 2003, n. 350, come introdotto dall'art. 16 del decreto legge 25 settembre 2009, n. 135', this approach again seems to be confirmed.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions?

Do Italy's national rules on origin labelling accord with the existing Treaties and the internal market legislation of the European Union?

If so, why?

If not, why not?