

**Question for written answer E-009899/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Herbert Dorfmann (PPE)

Subject: Eurocodes: Eurocode 5 (Recommendation 2003/887/EC of 11.12.2003)

With this recommendation the Commission has established new coefficients to be used in the timber construction sector.

As regards timber structures, Italian legislation provides for partial safety factors that are higher than those set out in the current version of the European code, which unduly increases the number of resistant sections and, consequently, the price of timber constructions. This is because Italy, unlike most European countries, has a law (DM 14.01.2008 laying down technical rules for construction works) specifically designed to regulate the construction sector.

Can the Commission verify the reasons why Italy has adopted the law in question, given that it does not meet EU competition criteria since it lays down operational parameters that are higher than those laid down in Eurocode 5 for the buildings sector, which is having a negative impact on users and final consumers by penalising timber structures on the market compared to similar structures built with other materials?

Should it emerge that, as regards the Italian construction market, this law is at odds with EU law, what action does the Commission intend to take to restore a level playing field in this sector?