

**Question for written answer P-000491/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Costs of obtaining authorisation of plant protection products for parallel trade

In Italy, the Health Ministry is responsible for authorising, for purposes of parallel trade, new plant protection products which have already been vetted in other EU Member States, and such authorisation is required before a product can be placed on the market.

In Italy, it costs €4 000 to obtain authorisation for the parallel import of a substitute which has already been approved in another Member State. In other EU States, the same authorisation for purposes of parallel importation costs significantly less: in Germany between €210 and €2 125, in France €800 and in Austria between €275 and €916.33.

This disparity in the level of charges for applications constitutes unequal treatment and thus breaches the principles of the free and equal market within the EU. It is more difficult to import such products into Italy than into other Member States, so that this significantly impedes market access for the operators concerned.

1. Is the costly authorisation procedure which applies in Italy (Decree of 28 September 2012, published in: G.U. Serie Generale No 274 of 23 November 2012) compatible with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC? This Regulation provides for a simplified procedure for authorising products for parallel trade in order to facilitate trade in such products between Member States.
2. How are the major disparities in the level of authorisation charges for parallel trade in the various Member States justified?
3. What will the Commission do to ensure competitiveness for imports into Italy in comparison with imports into other EU States in this field?