

**Question for written answer E-004459/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)

Subject: The risks of the Bitcoin market

The Commission will undoubtedly know about the ongoing circulation of the virtual currency, the Bitcoin, which was created a few years ago. Unlike other virtual exchange instruments, it has spread very quickly. Together with concerns for guarantees to be provided for its purchase and use, news about speculative movements taking place in recent weeks has caused some alarm. For example, the Commission will recall that, compared to a standard value of USD 15, in just a few days the rate shot up to over USD 100, and in early April it was over USD 200, then falling sharply to USD 50.

1. Has the Commission launched a study on this virtual currency and its impact on ecommerce?
2. Will it consider providing some information to protect European consumers?