

**Question for written answer E-007533/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)**

Subject: A digital Single Market

The EU still has enormous economic problems. Unemployment in the South is at dangerous levels, growth is low and the prospects for the future are bleak. Back in 2010 the Commission proposed a strategy for promoting the digital agenda, but unfortunately there are serious problems with the roll-out. The total benefit for consumers could be as much as EUR 204 billion (1.7% of the EU's GDP). It would also create greater cohesion in the internal market if e-commerce could be carried out equally effectively in all countries, and the digital expansion of the internal market would also benefit competition in Europe.

Can the Commission therefore please state what progress has been made with the following initiatives as compared with the Commission's 2010 strategy:

1. Will the Commission work towards the roll-out of high speed internet throughout the EU, and will the EU structural funds focus on building up a high-speed infrastructure?
2. Will the Commission cut through the jungle of standards for differing trading platforms and implement a guarantee of safe and fair contract terms and conditions, and will it work on rolling out open IT standards, to enable all users to trade, irrespective of their platform?
3. Will the Commission encourage the use of e-commerce by the public sector, for example by establishing cloud partnerships, and will it work towards making e-billing the most common form of billing for public procurement? Will the Commission generally make payment services simpler to use, more reliable and more competitive?