

**Question for written answer E-008446/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Julia Reda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Preferential treatment of market leader in search engines through change in German copyright law

The ancillary copyright for press publishers established by the German Bundestag in March has been enforced this year by Verwertungsgesellschaft Media (media collecting society – VG Media) against search engine operators. In response to the claims, some of these have stopped listing the pages of the publishers represented by VG Media. Following Google's announcement that it is only displaying short snippets in hits from these company sites, VG Media granted Google a free licence. At the same time as the EU is conducting an antitrust investigation into accusations of abuse of market power by Google, a change in German copyright law is therefore resulting in claims being made against all search engines apart from Google for the use of snippets.

1. Does the Commission share the concern about the foreseeable consequences of this ancillary copyright for press publishers, particularly in view of Google's already extraordinarily large market share in the search engine industry?
2. Will the Commission include the ancillary copyright for press publishers and its effects in the antitrust proceedings against Google?
3. What work has been carried out by the Commission regarding ancillary copyrights for press publishers in EU Member States or at European level (e.g. studies, meetings, drafts, hearings)?