

**Question for written answer E-008550/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Google's monopoly in Europe

On 1 October 2014, German news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that a compromise is in sight in the European Union's anti-trust law dispute with search engine provider Google. 'There are signs that an agreement may soon be reached in the competition law dispute between Google and the EU. The company has bowed to the demands from Brussels and is prepared to make more far-reaching concessions', the online edition reads. Margrethe Vestager, the new Commissioner with responsibility for competition, has announced further steps in the investigation into abuse of its market position by Google, which could lead to the company being forced to pay billions of euros in fines.

1. What are the next steps in the investigation into the alleged abuse by Google of its market power in Europe, and when will they be taken?
2. In May the European Court of Justice ruled that Google must remove links to certain search results. Will the Commission consider the issue of the protection of personal data when deciding what further steps to take?
3. Will the Commission also consider the implications of a possible abrogation of the Safe Harbour arrangement, which makes it possible for personal data to be processed in the US?