

**Question for written answer E-009092/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Knut Fleckenstein (S&D)**

Subject: Online gambling

Responding to the draft Gambling Treaty amendment (GlüÄndStV) which Germany had notified to it, the Commission pointed out that continuous assessment would be needed and welcomed the undertaking by the German *Länder* to produce an initial assessment within two years.

1. How will the Commission ensure that the amended Gambling Treaty is continuously assessed as announced and, as far as the projected initial assessment is concerned, that the interests of private service providers are taken properly into account?

In its communication of 23 October 2012 entitled 'Towards a comprehensive European framework for online gambling' the Commission made the point that any restrictions which Member States choose to impose on cross-border gambling services must be shown to be invariably conducive to public interest objectives. It announced its intention of publishing a progress report within two years for the purpose of assessing whether the measures proposed 'provide an adequate framework for online gambling or ... [whether] additional measures, where necessary legislative ones, need to be taken at EU level'.

2. When will the Commission submit that report and how will it ensure that the experience and interests of the private service providers concerned are taken into consideration as and where appropriate?

The new Commission President has repeatedly stated that the Internet and the digital economy will be a new key area for the Commission's work.

3. Will the new priorities be such that greater emphasis will be laid on the opportunities and possibilities offered by commercial online agency services for state lotteries, without, however, losing sight of the need to protect consumers and children?