

**Question for written answer E-009666/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Expanding broadband internet access to stimulate growth

The outstanding importance of broadband internet access to economic growth and employment in Europe was emphasised yet again at this year's European Innovation Summit. What this means is that fast internet connections are a major factor in where organisations choose to locate, in the context of reindustrialisation, promoting growth and the ongoing excellence of research and development. However, substantial divergences exist in broadband expansion within and between Member States, with the result that there are numerous regions where the internet factor has had almost no benefit at all, something which has dramatic consequences for their economic and demographic development.

1. What value is attached to expanding broadband internet access in the present Commission's Agenda 2020?
2. Alongside EU subsidies for broadband expansion in hitherto neglected regions, what other measures could be taken to improve the attractiveness of those regions as business locations?
3. How can the economic boost obtained after connection to the broadband network be quantified?