

**Question for written answer E-011102/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Closure of Google News in Spain

On 16 December 2014 Google decided to close down 'Google News' in Spain, which thus became the first country in the world to see this service closed. 'Google News' consists of a system of links that redirect news from Spanish media. The American company does not derive any profit from this system.

On 1 January 2015 a new Law on Intellectual Property will come into force. This law includes the so-called 'Google tax' or 'AEDE [*Association of Spanish Newspaper Publishers*] levy', whose purpose is to make news aggregators, such as 'Google News' or 'Menéame', compensate creators of content. Paradoxically, the disappearance of these media from the search engine has a direct effect on the number of visits to the original content (and therefore on its profitability).

Germany, France and Belgium have similar legislation, but they have nevertheless reached agreements with Google and other content aggregators to avoid closure.

1. Does the Commission consider that the EU definition of copyright ought to be brought up to date?
2. What are the Commission's priorities as regards protecting the rights of content creators in the ambit of the single digital market?