

**Question for written answer E-000285/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: An ageing Europe and innovation policy

Ageing will be the most powerful factor influencing European demographics this century. Improving the general health of citizens will permit long, healthy and active ageing. By 2060, nearly 30% of Europe's population will be over 65, and the proportion of the population over 80 will rise to over 10%. So we are not talking about a marginal population group. Advanced technological progress, remote healthcare services and the diversification in means of communication can clearly improve opportunities for older people to participate and extend their active life in their own living environment. On the other hand, the rapid development of technology and its adoption could put older people in a very unequal position, depending on the accessibility and affordability of new solutions and on individuals' preparedness to make use of technology.

The user potential for new services and solutions in the service of older people is enormous. Promoting a high quality of life for an ageing population improves the welfare of the whole of society. I am concerned at when the EU will put words into actions and really take some measures in favour of a policy on ageing. At national level, steps in the right direction have already been taken in Ireland, for example.

Is the still growing need to develop active life and participation for older people reflected in the EU's innovation policy and in its planning of the relevant funding?

And does the Commission have plans to create frameworks and rules for the usability and accessibility of these technologies and new solutions and to ensure that users are not discriminated against?