

**Question for written answer E-004788/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Very high-speed internet access via satellite

In its digital strategy for Europe, the Union has decided to provide very high-speed internet access for everyone, everywhere, and at an affordable price. To make this possible, I think that we must also consider the difficulties that this will place on us (access in areas far from urban centres, such as islands, mountains and rural areas). That is why I believe fundamentally in the satellite option. In the United States, Google and SpaceX have just joined forces to launch a programme of this type. I find it regrettable that Europe currently has no similar programme, because we have the capabilities and could deliver it quickly. The ideas already exist.

1. Has the Commission already considered the satellite option for very high-speed access?
2. What is its view of a new programme of this type, designed to respond both to the digital strategy and to our direct competitors?
3. Could it envisage releasing some funds (either from structural funds or the EFSI)?