

**Question for written answer E-005113/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jozo Radoš (ALDE)

Subject: Introduction of broadband Internet in rural areas

One of the most important policies of the EU is the cohesion policy, to which the EU has in the financial period 2014 -2020 allocated EUR 376 billion. Funding for the development of rural areas is allocated from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). One of the main purposes of the ERDF and the EAFRD is to improve the quality of life and stimulate economic activity in rural areas through increased access, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT). Resources from the ERDF are intended specifically for the fulfilment of objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe, which provides for the development of broadband Internet access in the Member States. The main aim of the Digital Agenda for Europe is to guarantee fast broadband internet access (30 Mbit/s) in 100 % of households by 2020 and ultrafast internet access (100 Mbit/s) in at least 50 % of households by the end of the same year.

In accordance with the above I ask the following questions:

1. How much of these funds is allocated to broadband Internet coverage of rural areas?
2. How many projects for broadband Internet coverage of rural areas are at the approval stage, and how many of those projects have already been approved?