

**Question for written answer E-006121/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: The construction of broadband infrastructure in Croatia

In Croatia there is a plan for development of a fibre optic infrastructure which should be funded from EU grant funds. The project is to bring fibre optic cables to 650 settlements with more than 1 000 inhabitants. The network would then be expanded within settlements at the local community level, for which the state has set up a special programme to enable the building of broadband networks, again with the support from EU Structural Funds. The Croatian media have recently speculated about possible opposition from the European Commission to such a project as it wishes such infrastructure to be financed as a private investment from the so-called Juncker fund. It is known that in the previous programming period such projects in some Member States were financed from EU Structural Funds.

1. Is this information correct, i.e. are there views within the European Commission opposed to the construction of fibre optic infrastructure with a grant from Structural Funds?
2. Which funding models for the construction of fibre optic infrastructure is the Commission supporting, or are there criteria on which this depends?