

**Question for written answer E-011868/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Internet neutrality

The debate on net neutrality is of great topical importance at a time when Internet traffic is exploding, requiring the installation of costly infrastructure. The principle of neutrality means that all data circulating on the Internet must be treated equally. It is technically possible to select data packages and give them priority treatment. This practice may well create political and social problems as well as economic ones.

In December 2014, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution enshrining and guaranteeing the principle of net neutrality, even though it is constantly being called into question by major telecommunications operators. Some of them restrict access to free Internet-based telephone services such as Skype, which compete with their own paid services. Others meanwhile conclude agreements with video services such as YouTube to offer greater bandwidth or privileged access for their subscribers.

The Federal Communications Commission, the US telecommunications regulator, adopted the principle of net neutrality on 26 February 2015.

Can the Commission provide an update on the current situation? In particular, is it considering implementing this principle in Europe, and if so when?