

**Question for written answer E-012109/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Geo-blocking

One major obstacle to the EU Digital Single Market is the use of location-based restrictions (geo-blocking). Internet sellers deny users in a given Member State access to websites that are not directed at that Member State.

In many cases, even when individuals have access to the webpage, they cannot purchase products or services from it. They will often be redirected to the company's local website, but the prices or even the products themselves might be quite different from those on the original website. Not only does this practice threaten the integrity of the single market, it also constitutes discrimination against certain consumers.

In its strategy for the Digital Single Market, the Commission emphasised the need to combat location-based price differentiation but did not offer a legal justification for this kind of interference in businesses' right to form their own pricing policies. A legal bill banning the use of geo-blocking should not be drafted until a relevant economic analysis taking into account the purchasing power of consumers in different Member States and the real cost of conducting business across borders has been carried out.

How does the Commission plan to combat geo-blocking on the Digital Single Market without infringing businesses' freedom to conduct their activities?