

**Question for written answer E-003342/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Subject: EU official languages and the use of English

According to Council Regulation No 1/1958, all 24 of the EU's official languages are working languages and can be used within the institutions. An unspoken rule at the Commission has taken the total down to three: German, English and French.

In practice, however, English has taken over as the language of the institutions. In 1997, 45 % of Commission documents were written in English, 40 % in French, and 5 % in German. The balance is now completely skewed, with 81 % of documents being written in English, 5 % in French and 2 % in German.

Of the Commission's 30 General Directorate websites, only eight can be accessed in English, and the translations of more specific EU policy information leave much to be desired.

1. Would the Commission not agree that the arbitrary imposition of 'business' English as an official language is widening the divide between EU citizens and the institutions which represent them even further?
2. In the light of the above, will the Commission take steps to translate its websites and documentation?