

**Question for written answer E-004789/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Which language should replace English?

English is currently the dominant language in the European Parliament, despite the rules on multilingualism. By way of an example, voting sheets are available only in English, just as the texts that are put to the vote are often available only in English.

On 23 June 2016, the UK will hold a referendum on whether or not it should remain in the EU. Should the UK decide to leave, does the Commission plan to remove English from the list of the EU's 24 official languages and scrap its use?

French, the fifth most spoken language in the world – soon to be the third – is already one of the EU's three working languages, together with English and German, the latter being the twelfth most spoken.

Are there not two obvious conclusions to be drawn here, namely that documents should henceforth be systematically translated into French and that English should be replaced as a working language by Spanish – the world's second most spoken language?