

**Question for written answer E-004946/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Andor Deli (PPE), Andrea Bocskor (PPE), Pál Csáky (PPE), Tamás Deutsch (PPE), Kinga Gál (PPE), Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz (PPE), Csaba Sógor (PPE), József Szájer (PPE) and András Gyürk (PPE)**

Subject: Geo-blocking of broadcasts of sports events

The 2016 European Football Championship once again raises the issue of geo-blocking of access to digital content. One obvious instance of the practice of restricting the single market for digital content is geo-blocking of broadcasts of sports events and other live events.

The aim of the Commission's proposal for a regulation of 25 May 2016 (COM (2016) 289 final 2016/0152 (COD)) is to put an end to geo-blocking and discrimination based on place of residence in e-commerce, while other aspects of this wider problem still await a solution. The absence of complete legislation calls into question, *inter alia*, the exercise of linguistic rights, as digital content is primarily accessible in the language of a given Member State, so that minorities living there cannot follow sports events and other events in their mother tongue.

As more than 60 regional and minority languages exist within the European Union, and as the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union particularly protects equality, prohibits discrimination and highlights linguistic diversity:

1. When will the Commission take action, and what steps will it take, to solve the problem of geo-blocking of broadcasts of sports events?
2. What aspects of free access to digital content will the Commission tackle in the near future?
3. What would be the most effective way of ensuring respect for regional and minority languages with reference to access to digital content?