

**Question for written answer E-008147/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Subject: Commission public consultations

Since 2003, prior to every major legislative proposal, the Commission has used online surveys to involve experts, companies and the public in the drafting process. It seems that ordinary people are largely unaware of the existence of this tool, however, because very few consultations have received more than 100 responses, and hardly any more than 1000. That said, the survey tool is used frequently: 704 times since 2010, and 100 times in the first nine months of 2016.

1. The involvement of external stakeholders and civil society is definitely worth supporting, but how will the Commission increase the number of responses from ordinary members of the public?
2. The interface seems to be an issue for many respondents: links to surveys are often difficult to find; it can be difficult to get on mailing lists; and announcements of consultations and the questionnaires themselves are often published in different places. How does the Commission intend to make the entire process more user-friendly?
3. It is often unclear how responses will be used and ultimately included in draft legislation. There are no clear rules as to how this will be done, and final reports do not show how the surveys affect legislative proposals. How will the Commission make the use of survey responses more transparent?