

**Question for written answer E-008148/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Telecom review and the digital economy

The basic idea is that Internet connections must become faster, with higher capacities, so that Europe does not fall behind other major regions in what is a process of digital change. In that connection, incentives for infrastructure expansion provide a basis for achieving download speeds of 100 Mbit/s by 2025.

1. Glass fibre technology appears to be the preferred solution for achieving such speeds. Operators of copper-based networks, which can guarantee minimum speeds, will be unwilling to abandon their networks, however, and there are very differing appraisals of vectoring technology as a means of increasing speeds. What alternatives are being considered in this connection?
2. In his recent State of the Union address, Commission President Juncker called for free wifi for all cities in the EU. At the same time, however, the Commission proposes to take action against cities that offer free wifi on the ground that that might constitute state aid, Prague's plans apparently being a case in point. Will the Commission modify the relevant rules so that the public can be given free wifi?
3. The proposal for a European Electronic Communications Code with a view to keeping access to long-established operators' physical networks open to competitors is a milestone in terms of infrastructure expansion. Can the Commission put a figure on the volume of infrastructure investment likely to be generated as a result?