

**Question for written answer E-008389/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Comments by Commissioner Oettinger

At a gala dinner hosted by the German employers' association in Hamburg on Wednesday, 26 October 2016, Günther Oettinger, the German Commissioner for the digital economy, made a series of comments that were unworthy of the office he holds. Not only did Mr Oettinger appear to express disappointment at the progress made in respect of gay marriage, but he also made offensive comments about my region, Wallonia, dubbing it 'a micro-region run by Communists' that was blocking the whole of Europe.

In addition to the racist and homophobic undertones of Mr Oettinger's clearly misjudged comments, he also showed a total lack of diplomacy towards another country, as well as displaying unfair yet symptomatic contempt for the democratic process of a Member State.

The Commission President has said time and again that his is the 'last chance Commission', and yet this situation, in combination with a host of other issues (Brexit, the CETA crisis, etc.), has merely reinforced the disenchantment that citizens are feeling towards Europe.

Why, then, has the Commission President failed to take more decisive action in calling the Commissioner to order?

Do such comments not mean that he is actually unfit for the post of Commissioner?