

**Question for written answer E-008702/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Syed Kamall (ECR)**

Subject: So-called 'link tax'

I have been contacted by constituents who have concerns over the Commission's proposal for a directive on copyright in the digital single market, claiming that it would create new forms of monopoly allowing publishing giants to charge fees for snippets of text that automatically accompany hyperlinks.

My constituents claim that this will prevent innovative EU digital start-ups being launched if such fees are made compulsory.

Can the Commission confirm if:

1. it is aware of any negative impacts this proposal could have on smaller search engines and aggregators which may be unable to afford to pay any hyperlinking fees;
2. it has assessed whether the proposal would impede the right of citizens to receive and impart information and ideas, as laid down in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights?