

**Question for written answer E-009366/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Investment into telecommunications and the potential effect on Central and Eastern Europe

There is no doubt that one of the biggest challenges in the area of European security at the moment is the creation of a modern and effective cybersecurity system. To meet that objective, Member States will have to work closely together and coordinate their efforts at EU level.

It appears, however, that the investment being put into telecommunications by some Member States could have harmful repercussions for the cybersecurity of their partners. One example is the high-capacity optical fibre C-Lion1, which will link Asia with Western Europe via Russia and Finland, whilst completely circumventing Central and Eastern Europe. In this respect, it is similar to the Nord Stream and planned Nord Stream 2 pipelines, which are causing major concerns about energy security in some EU Member States.

What is the Commission's view on the exclusion of Central and Eastern Europe in some of the most important infrastructural projects?

Is it fair, and does the Commission support this kind of marginalisation of the Member States in Central and Eastern Europe? Is there not a risk that these areas will be excluded in terms of development?

In the Commission's view, how will the future of the excluded countries be affected?