

**Question for written answer E-000837/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: EU copyright law

The new copyright law, which should already be in force across Europe, stipulates that, in future, a licence will have to be obtained even for the use of snippets of text, URLs and hyperlinks, and for indexing content. However, small publishers in particular rely on links on social media, which is where they draw in their readership. In Germany, where 'ancillary copyrights' have been introduced, many publishers continue to authorise free use of their content to avoid losing readers. The copyright law also fell short in Spain, where Google simply closed down its news service, causing internet traffic to news websites in Spain to fall by 14%. There are justifiable causes for concern, including the fact that this law not only restricts media diversity but also encourages false reporting from providers that would fail to make use of the ancillary copyright.

1. What does the Commission think of these concerns?
2. Can the Commission guarantee that media diversity and small publishers in particular will be protected when the copyright reform is enforced?