

**Question for written answer E-007564/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)**

Subject: Blockchains

Blockchain technology has already been around for many years, but only more recently has it gained broader recognition from the public, institutions and governments, especially with the breakthrough of Bitcoin. In terms of significance, the invention of blockchains is being compared, at least in certain circles, to that of the internet. Since the rise of Bitcoin, many other developers have begun to take an interest in blockchain technology, making Bitcoin more than just a cryptocurrency. Managing software and data transmission are just two of the ways in which blockchains can be used.

Given that Europe missed its chance to take advantage of the possibilities of the internet in its early days, while in the US internet giants such as Google and Apple sprang up, the EU should consider its position on blockchain technology. Countries such as Russia, Japan and Singapore have already begun to recognise blockchains as a future key technology.

1. What is the Commission's position/strategy on blockchain technology?
2. In which industries does it see possible applications for blockchain technology?