

**Question for written answer P-000448/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sabine Verheyen (PPE)

Subject: Adjustment of the threshold for the deployment of broadband networks

State aid for the deployment of broadband networks is possible, according to the Commission's Communication on EU Guidelines (2013 /C 25/01), in underserved areas, so-called 'white areas', and, after careful consideration, also in so-called grey areas. 'White areas' are areas in which there is no broadband infrastructure and it is unlikely to be developed in the near future 'Grey areas' are those in which one network operator is present and another network is unlikely to be developed in the near future. .

One goal under the Digital Agenda is to achieve broadband coverage of at least 30 Mbps (megabits per second) throughout the EU by 2020.

The threshold for inclusion in the deployment of broadband networks is thus a download speed of 30 Mbps.

An increase in this threshold is needed to allow the more effective and efficient provision of broadband coverage. Moreover, measures should be taken to ensure a significantly higher transmission speed as a matter of principle so that the opportunities of digitisation can be better exploited.

- 1) What are the Commission's objectives as regards increasing the current threshold for the deployment of broadband networks? What is the current status?
- 2) What threshold does the Commission envisage in the short, medium and long term?