

**Question for written answer E-001900/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Oreste Rossi (EFD)**

Subject: Growth in digital music as against piracy

Global revenues from digital music (USD 4.6 billion) are on the rise, even if the negative trend of traditional products affected by piracy cannot be curbed. With the advent of the MP3 compression format, the Internet and networks have become the principal medium for distributing illegal music. New technologies enable the distribution and downloading of songs in a few minutes without the need for particular skills or sophisticated equipment.

The appearance on the Internet of file-sharing programs like Napster, Kazaa and the like has made the whole thing even simpler and has led to digital piracy becoming widespread. It should not be assumed that this new form of piracy is exclusively for individual use, as criminal organisations are also turning to the Internet and its easy money, abandoning in many cases more traditional forms of counterfeiting. In the European creative industry, 1.2 million jobs could be lost due to piracy by 2015.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to adopt in order to limit the loss of jobs, incentivising businesses in the creative sector to produce music legally?
2. Given the spread of programs and software allowing easy access to music, does it intend to implement controls on sites which allow free music downloads, protecting consumers, who are often children?