

**Question for written answer E-002740/2013/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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**Subject:** Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) procedure for granting new top-level domain names

In early 2012, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) launched a process for awarding management rights for new top-level domain names. This major step is also intended to improve the visibility and identification of different brands, service activities and even cities (such as .auto, .hotel, .paris).

As part of this process, it is crucial to ensure that:

1. all hotels around the world are guaranteed non-discriminatory access to the new '.hotel' domain names;
2. '.hotel' and similar domain names are allocated to the hotel community only, as the word 'hotel' refers to a well-defined industry. This would build up consumers' trust that there is really a hotel service behind a '.hotel' or similar domain name.

These principles are essential for the European hotel industry and can only be ensured by making a 'community application' to the ICANN.

In the light of the above, what action is the Commission planning to take in relation to the ICANN procedure in order to ensure non-discriminatory access for all hotels to the new top-level domain name(s), i.e. the application of the rules and principles of fair competition?