

**Question for written answer E-007708/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Marietje Schaake (ALDE)**

Subject: Impact of German copyright law upon the right to information and the free movement of services

On 1 August 2013 a new copyright law¹ will enter into force in Germany, giving publishers the exclusive right to the commercial use of their publications on the internet. The law provides for an exception with regard to the use of single words and very small snippets of text. It does not specify the maximum length of text to which the exception may be applied.

In order to comply with the new law, Google has announced that it will remove all German publishers from Google News as of 1 August 2013, unless they opt in to the service and allow Google News to republish parts of their online publications². In other Member States, publishers do not have to give Google prior consent to be included in Google News, but they do have the possibility of opting out of the service.

1. Does the Commission consider that the measures taken by Google in order to comply with German copyright law could have a significant impact upon German citizens' access to news on the internet, thereby impacting upon the right to receive and communicate information? If not, why not?
2. Does the Commission consider that the German copyright law impinges upon the free movement of services? If not, why not?
3. Does the Commission seek to establish the same terms of use throughout the EU for services (including online services) provided in the EU? If not, why not?

¹ http://www.bgbl.de/Xaver/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBI&jumpTo=bgbl113s1161.pdf#__Bundesanzeiger_BGBI__%2F%2F*%5B%40attr_id%3D'bgbl113s1161.pdf'%5D__1372177469034.

² <http://google-produkte.blogspot.de/2013/06/google-news-bleibt-offene-plattform-fuer-verlage.html>.