Question for written answer E-012863/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)

Subject: Language restrictions on the Internet

Akram Atallah, who is responsible for domain names at the global internet management authority, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), has announced the first four new endings for online domains in Arabic, Chinese and Russian whilst a further 1 400 new suffixes are to be created.

The new suffixes are expected to be available for use in about one month, with the aim of creating a globalised Internet, free of linguistic and geographical restrictions.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1.   Has it taken similar steps regarding the availability of new suffixes in most European languages? How has the lack of availability of these affected digital literacy in Europe to date?

2.   What impact does it expect this development to have on the digital industry?