

**Question for written answer E-003264/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Małgorzata Handzlik (PPE)

Subject: The multilinguistic nature of the EU - inequality in access to social consultations

Multilingualism is one of the main features of the European Union, which emphasizes its cultural and linguistic diversity and ensures the equal treatment of its citizens. Multilingualism is also intended to guarantee citizens' rights to contact EU institutions in any of its official languages, enabling them to exercise their right of democratic supervision and active participation in social consultations.

Citizens do not understand the fact that many documents that are meant to be subject to social consultations are still only available in the three main languages of the EU: English, French and German. Despite the fact that, in many cases, a reply form is available in all language versions, this is insufficient. In the opinion of citizens this is tantamount to discrimination against those who do not speak the above languages and excludes them from active participation in social consultations.

In respect of the above, I wish to ask the Commission whether:

1. it believes that restricting access to all language versions may constitute discrimination against EU citizens who do not speak English, French and German?
2. it believes that releasing all language versions of documents intended for social consultations would contribute to an increase in the number of citizens taking an active part in them?
3. it is planning any steps to introduce all official language versions during the process of social consultations?