

**Question for written answer E-009699/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Herbert Reul (PPE)**

Subject: German translations of Commission documents

Yet again, important documents published or disseminated by the Commission or one of its agencies are not available in German, an official language.

The lack of translations poses a significant barrier to citizens wishing to become better informed about European politics. For example, the Commission factsheets on TTIP are still available only in English, even though interest in the topic is particularly high in Germany. Why does the Commission not consider it necessary to translate the TTIP factsheets?

The lack of translations is also a source of frequent annoyance for small and medium-sized enterprises, of which there are 62 000 in Germany and Austria alone.

Foreign-language documents often pose a significant administrative barrier for these businesses and associations, since they have neither their own resources and skills to produce precise translations nor the necessary knowledge of languages to work on the basis of technical texts that are generally in English.

For example, it would be useful for the SMEs concerned if comprehensive technical documentation produced by the European Chemicals Agency ECHA, such as the publication 'Prolonged contact with the skin – definition building for nickel', could be published in German. Why is this publication currently available only in English? What changes will the Commission bring about so that important technical documents are translated promptly in future?