

**Question for written answer E-013608/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Digital single market and sharing economy

New business models emerging under the sharing economy have a huge potential to create growth, jobs and wider choice for consumers and entrepreneurs. The sharing economy's value is estimated at EUR 10 billion globally. By 2025, this value is expected to increase to more than EUR 250 billion. Hence we should see the sharing economy as a unique opportunity.

The European single market is about bringing down barriers and building a connected continent for all, ensuring that every European can enjoy the devices and services they need in all Member States. Yet, there is a lot of resistance from incumbent industries against innovative platforms offering new alternative for European consumers. While taxi associations or companies have taken action against Uber, the association of Spanish bus operators (Confibus) has announced it is taking BlaBlaCar to court. This may lead to a situation where certain EU citizens do not have access to services that are freely available to citizens of other Member States.

How does the Commission intend to ensure that European citizens have access to innovative sharing economy services across the digital single market?

How does the Commission intend to deal with measures from the Member States that are intended to protect national monopolies as opposed to fostering the development of innovative sharing economy services offering much needed alternatives?