

**Question for written answer E-000689/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ángela Vallina (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The digital divide in rural areas of Spain and remoteness with regard to the objectives set out with regard to broadband in the EU for 2025

In accordance with the objectives of the Digital Single Market, every household in the European Union should be connected and have access to broadband of up to 100 mbps by 2025. However, in Spain there are still some 2 500 municipalities with less than 10 mbps access. In the case of 600 000 homes, access barely reaches 2 mbps, or they are not covered at all.

If the figures are examined, the 'digital divide' is greater in rural areas (which account for about 20 % of the population), which already face more problems concerning accessibility.

Bearing in mind paragraphs 44 and 45 of the European Parliament Resolution of 4 April 2017, on women and their role in rural areas (A8-0058/2017), what accompanying measures does the Commission plan on taking in order to provide greater support for the European Digital Agenda in rural areas?

What is the Commission's assessment on the extent to which Spain is currently on course to meet the objectives of the Digital Single Market?