Question for written answer E-000064/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: The transition from IPv4 to IPv6 in the EU

RIPE NCC, the regional IP address registry which allocates IPs in Europe and the Middle East, has just announced that IPv4 addresses have been depleted. IPv6 should eventually replace IPv4, which can no longer generate enough addresses. Using 128 bit addresses instead of 32 bit addresses, IPv6 has much more address space than IPv4. The shortage of IPv4 addresses risks decreasing internet availability throughout Europe, thereby damaging a number of set-ups (operators, suppliers, hosts, terminals, forwarders, information systems for public administrations and businesses, etc.) but benefiting global giants which have already transferred to IPv6 or which have a significant reserve of IPv4 addresses, a sector in which the United States is well placed. Moreover, the cost of transition is prohibitive and many stakeholders will simply not be able to afford it, thus damaging competition at an international level.

Does the Commission intend to take control of the situation and suggest to Member States that a working group be formed to focus on the transition from IPv4 to IPv6?