

**Question for written answer E-003456/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Deployment of broadband in Spain

One of the strategic objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe is the deployment of broadband across the EU, including in rural areas where connectivity is difficult. Spain is responsible for managing calls for public support from the outreach programme for next generation broadband, jointly funded by the European Regional Development Fund, which in 2019 earmarked EUR 400 million for broadband in Europe.

In its press release dated 10 December 2019 ¹, the Commission endorsed Spain's regulation on the granting of these funds in line with the 2013 Broadband Guidelines ². At the last call for grants in 2019, 92.24% of total support went to one company: Telefónica.

The 2013 Broadband Guidelines state that there must not be unacceptable distortions of competition, which could be the case in Spain.

1. What is the Commission's view of the fact that European funding may help strengthen Telefónica's monopoly of the deployment of broadband in Spain?
2. What does the Commission believe the parameters for the granting of European funds should be so that the Digital Agenda progresses in a sustainable manner and in a way that benefits all of society?
3. Is the Commission considering intervening to ensure that broadband guidelines are adhered to in the event of distortions of competition?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6719

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:025:0001:0026:EN:PDF>