

**Question for written answer E-000817/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ibán García Del Blanco (S&D)**

**Subject:** Intellectual Property Action Plan – sectoral discussions

In its Intellectual Property Action Plan, the Commission says that sectoral discussions to find solutions for the licencing of standard-essential patents (SEPs) will begin in early 2021. Many people are concerned that such an approach arbitrarily segments and divides the community of standards users and implicitly endorses a use-based licencing approach.

1. Since the Court of Justice will likely clarify critical questions related to SEP licensing, why is the Commission pressing ahead with these sectoral discussions?
2. If it is set upon continuing with these sectoral discussions, what is it doing to ensure that the views of all stakeholders, including small and medium-sized enterprises, are represented in line with the principles of open standardisation?
3. Has it considered that sectoral discussions may raise competition concerns?