

**Question for written answer E-003442/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Lídia Pereira (PPE), Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE)**

**Subject:** Tenders for the installation and operation of next generation fibre optic networks

In 2009, the Portuguese Government launched five tenders for the installation and operation of next generation fibre optic networks in 139 municipalities, with the aim of ensuring the coverage of white areas, on a competitive basis. However, the non-discrimination mechanisms associated with this tender proved to be insufficient, which, in effect, meant that, in 54 municipalities, a single operator was able to provide retail services, in what could, in practice, be considered a monopoly.

In 2022, there will reportedly be a new tender and it is important to ensure that there are no market distortions this time. In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission already aware of the design of the 2022 tender?
2. The Commission is considering asking the Portuguese Government and the Portuguese regulatory authority about what it is doing to ensure that the 2022 tender ensures compliance with European competition rules and electronic communications policy. Is the Commission considering issuing guidance or an opinion on the construction of the 2022 tender so as to ensure a level playing field?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Paulo Rangel (PPE)