

**Question for oral answer O-000109/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the ECR Group

Subject: Recent proposals to complete the digital single market

The current EU electronic communications framework is a complex but predictable regulatory environment that has been essential to delivering effective competition, fluid investment and significant consumer benefits. Telecoms markets have enjoyed widespread growth during the recent difficult economic times, but a more downcast view is increasingly being conveyed by the Commission. Recent proposals from the Commission to complete the digital single market (see COM(2013)0627) have come at a time when many of the regulatory provisions to be amended by the proposals are still themselves being implemented or have not yet undergone a substantive review process. Furthermore, the proposals were published on 11 September 2013, just seven months in advance of the last plenary session of the seventh European Parliament (2009-2014).

1. Why did the Commission choose to aggregate several unrelated measures in a single legal instrument?
2. Why did the Commission come forward with proposals that concern a key area of economic activity with significant growth potential, at a time when it is impossible for legislators (and in particular the European Parliament) to explore their potential consequences properly, thus jeopardising the integrity of the current framework and undermining investment?
3. Why did the Commission choose not to benefit from the input of consumers, national regulators and industry stakeholders by subjecting the proposals to a public consultation?
4. The EU telecoms framework is built upon National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) taking appropriate and relevant action, both individually and collectively. Why has the Commission therefore proposed a substantial shift in the balance of power between the Commission, on the one hand, and the Member States and their NRAs, on the other?
5. To what extent has the Commission tested its proposals to ensure that they (a) deliver their stated objectives, (b) are operationally feasible, and (c) do not have unintended consequences?
6. Why has the Commission opted to pursue a market consolidation approach in place of the current pro-competitive framework?

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