

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2416/09
by Bernard Lehideux (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Accessibility of the Commission's on-line consultation procedures

From 16 December 2008 to 16 March 2009 the Commission's DG Environment organised on its Internet site a consultation procedure with a view to ascertaining European citizens' attitudes towards the rules governing trapping in the EU.

Unfortunately, the relevant material was translated only into English, French and German and, more seriously, on-line answers to the questions posed could be given only in English.

Practices of this kind inevitably serve to exclude many members of the public. Not only do they further undermine the linguistic diversity which the EU must endeavour to safeguard, but they also completely distort the results, even though the purpose of the consultation procedure was to 'obtain the largest possible number of opinions on these issues with the view to taking the most informed decision possible'.

How does the Commission intend to remedy the problems caused by such discriminatory practices in the future?