

**Priority question for written answer P-003469/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Deregulation of electronic communications

Good, secure telecommunication connections for everyone everywhere in Europe are a basic prerequisite for society, requiring the full involvement of every business and citizen. The target set by the European Commission for 2030 is very ambitious: that all EU households should have gigabit connectivity and all populated areas should be covered by 5G. This will require very considerable investment in the digital infrastructure, especially in areas where distances are long.

At one time, almost every EU country had one state-owned telecommunications company with monopoly status. Regulation helped support the market entry of new competitors. Now, in many EU countries, such as Finland, there is healthy competition between the telecommunications companies, and EU citizens have been able to use affordable communications services at reasonable prices. The original need for regulation has gone, and unnecessary regulation needs to be resolutely removed.

Regulation needs to encourage investment. Furthermore, ambitious, quantitative targets must be set to reduce the amount of unnecessary regulation, and these should be actively monitored. Regulation must be consistent and predictable, and it must be competitively and technologically neutral.

1. Does the Commission intend to take steps to remove unnecessary regulation in the field of electronic communications during what remains of its current term?
2. Does the Commission intend to bring forward the review of the EU Electronic Communications Code?
3. Does the Commission intend, by any chance, to introduce a new project for a new Digital Networks Act during what remains of its current term?

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