

**Question for written answer E-015884/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Public consultations - the language barrier

As stated in question E-007571-14, public consultations intended to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on the consultation topic are usually published in English only. This discriminates against citizens who do not have a sufficient knowledge of English. It is also difficult for them to obtain the information that their views may be provided in any official language of the Union, as indicated by the Commission in its reply. The number of public consultations is not large and their significance for giving information about citizens' opinions cannot be denied.

If the Commission does in fact take citizens' views into account and incorporates them into the explanatory memoranda of legislative proposals, it is necessary to make public consultations more accessible. Many citizens say that they have the impression that public consultations are something the Commission undertakes to fulfil its obligations, without taking a real interest in citizens' opinions.

Would it be possible to provide, with any information about a public consultation, a brief summary (not just a translation of the title of the public consultation), with basic practical information about the public consultation, translated into every official language of the Union?

According to the Commission's answer to question E-007571/2014, there are internal Commission guidelines for public consultation, which include a recommendation for a summary of information about the public consultation to be made and translated into all languages. Why is this not a obligation?

Would it be possible to translate questionnaires into all official languages?