

**Question for written answer E-015158/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Eva Paunova (PPE)

Subject: Political participation and online platforms

The most common online social activities for young people in the EU-28 in 2014 included participation in networking sites – with 82 % of young Europeans engaging through online platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. However, the proportion of young people in the EU who share their opinions on civic or political issues through social media is much smaller – only 18 %.

New technologies and social media provide various tools for political participation, and with the increasing levels of online presence these platforms can also be used to enhance political and civic participation. However, as the figures above demonstrate, social interaction online is much more common than civic and political participation through social media.

Considering the significant potential of online platforms and digital tools to increase political participation:

1. What steps is the Commission taking in order to encourage online political participation and the development of the digital skills needed for this purpose?
2. Which elements of the e-governance initiative under the Digital Single Market strategy directly target youth participation?