

**Question for written answer E-015050/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Andreas Schwab (PPE)

Subject: Updating of the Commission notice on the definition of relevant market for the purposes of Community competition law

The Commission notice on the definition of relevant market for the purposes of Community competition law (OJ C 372, 9 December 1997) contains guidance on the rules, criteria and evidence which the Commission employs in defining a market.

Some of their economic characteristics make digital markets particularly difficult to define, however. The methods developed over decades to define a relevant market, such as the price increase test, are only of limited use, given that on digital markets services are provided free of charge or in return for data, so that price increases are an irrelevancy.

What is more, on digital markets a holistic approach is needed, covering all platform pages, network effects and the role of data, in order to ensure that a given market is not defined too narrowly.

1. Does the Commission plan to update its 1997 notice in order to take proper account of the nature of digital markets? If not, why not?
2. In that connection, does the Commission also plan to assess other communications, notices or even binding legal instruments with a view to determining whether they need updating?