

Question for written answer E-001474/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Protection of privacy, including personal data, on the internet

Bringing legislation on protection of privacy, including protection of personal data, into line with the realities of the 21st-century digital revolution is certainly one of the most difficult challenges facing us today.

One of the major problems is the way in which some applications require access to private information about the users of electronic devices, especially mobile devices. The makers and providers of these applications often do not comply with the rules limiting the purpose and minimising the scope of the data collected. Often, as a prerequisite for installation, they require permission to access personal data which is not in any way needed for the program concerned to function properly, such as private contacts, SMS and email messages, personal photos, browsing history, etc. In the case of many applications, there is no possibility to choose which data should or should not be accessible. Either access is granted to all the data stored on the device, or the application cannot be installed.

What action does the Commission intend to take to eliminate these harmful practices and ensure that EU citizens enjoy full protection their privacy on the internet?