

**Question for written answer E-002997/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lorenzo Fontana (NI)**

Subject: Exchange of metadata by Germany and the NSA

Mass surveillance is being used by the NSA as part of US counterterrorism policy.

However, press sources have revealed that the German intelligence service, the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), is also gathering billions of metadata and allegedly sharing them with the NSA.

This has been reported in several newspapers and, if it is true, it means that a Member State of the European Union is sharing sensitive information concerning millions of European citizens with a foreign power.

The allegations suggest that the BND is sending 500 million items of metadata to the NSA every month, which is a total of some six billion a year.

According to the German weekly *Die Zeit*, 500 million could well be an under-estimate.

In view of all the above, the current debate on data protection, and the respect of privacy and information guaranteed by the European Union, can the Commission answer the following questions:

Has the abovementioned information been confirmed? What is the Commission planning to do?

Will there be an investigation into the matter?