

**Question for written answer E-004615/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Website blocking by the authorities to combat terrorism

Growing numbers of websites in Europe are being filtered, for various reasons. Studies have found these initiatives ineffective: there are many ways round the filtering technology. Furthermore, they have shown that initiatives of this type are intrusive and incompatible with the fundamental freedoms. They inevitably filter content which is not supposed to be blocked, while not successfully blocking all the content which is being targeted. Either way, the technology does not prevent access to the content being targeted by the blocking.

1. Does the Commission hold data showing that technical blocking of websites is an effective way of countering terrorist ideology?
2. If not, and given that Member States are increasingly legislating for, or tightening, their measures for this purpose, is the Commission willing to conduct further research to assess the effects of blocking measures by the authorities, in terms both of prevention of terrorism and respect for citizen rights?
3. Does not this action by Member States contravene Articles 7, 8, 47, 48 and 52 of the European Union Charter, especially with regard to privacy, data protection and the principle of proportionality?