

**Question for written answer E-006186/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Counterterrorism vs free speech

Calls for restrictions on online extremism and hate speech have risen after the expansion of the so-called Islamic State group (ISG) and its use of online recruitment strategies. The terrorism threat has led to proposals to expand surveillance powers in several Western democracies. But the same are used as justification to restrict civil rights in repressive regimes and illiberal democracies.

Internet and social media companies will increasingly be called on to monitor and police their networks for extremist speech and recruitment efforts, forcing them to play a censorship role, and fuelling efforts to impose intermediary liability for content-related matters. Global free speech norms will be further undermined as traditionally staunch democracies in Europe and North America tighten restrictions, expand surveillance and undermine privacy protections.

What is the Commission's position regarding counterterrorism vs free speech?