

**Question for written answer E-007999/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Encryption technologies and domestic security in the EU

In the European Agenda on Security that it published on 28 April 2015, the Commission states it wants to work with companies active in the field of information technology to respond to concerns about new encryption technologies. The Commission seems to see such technologies as an obstacle in the fight against terrorism.

However, encryption technologies are useful for putting a stop to mass online surveillance. In fact, they enable the public to protect their metadata and the content of their communications. For example, the Science and Technology Options Assessment panel's work on mass surveillance, presented to the Civil Liberties Committee, advocates making the use of encryption technologies widespread to protect the private lives of the European public.

1. What is the Commission's stance on these encryption technologies?
2. Does the Commission consider encryption technologies to impede the work of police forces to combat terrorism and organised crime?
3. Does the Commission envisage proposing that encryption become the norm for communication technologies?