

**Question for written answer E-010863/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE)

Subject: Strengthening control and regulation on app stores

In its Opinion 02/2013 on apps and smart devices, adopted on 27 February 2013, the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party pointed out that the ability to collect large quantities of data, the lack of transparency of the types of data processed and the lack of informed consent for such processing are issues of concern with regard to smart device applications. One of the recommendations set out in the opinion is that app stores must be aware of, and comply with, their obligations as data controllers when processing data from and about users.

Two years later, only apps that are visibly malicious are barred and removed from commercial online app stores, thus providing access to arguably safe applications. In fact, a number of 'free apps' are sharing user data by connecting to external user tracking and advertising websites without the knowledge of the consumer.

What additional measures does the Commission envisage to strengthen the obligation of control and regulation on app stores, and thus ensure compliance with existing EU data protection legislation?