

Question for written answer E-011432/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Breaches of EU data protection legislation by Facebook

Alongside the digital era and a society based on knowledge, technology and communication, there is a growing and unavoidable need to legislate in favour of data protection to safeguard the privacy of European citizens. In July 2014 it was established that Facebook had experimented with the data of 689 000 users without their consent, and that this was linked to cyber-espionage and to the Prism program. It was not the first time this had happened. Jan Albrecht MEP recently brought forward a proposal to protect the confidentiality of personal data online and to give people back control over their own information.

1. Does the Commission think that the steps the EU has taken to safeguard the legitimate privacy of EU citizens have been effective?
2. Has it seen major steps forward in the extensive case-law that has now been established in Europe and in the requirements and efforts that such legislation entails, such as the ruling on the 'right to be forgotten' that was handed down in 2012?
3. Does the Commission take the view that it is possible to guarantee the fundamental rights of EU citizens in the area of cyber-security, and to avoid intrusion, the use of data and any repercussions resulting from bad practice and abuses?