

**Question for written answer E-011551/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Online hate speech

According to the UNESCO definition, 'hate speech online is situated at the intersection of multiple tensions: it is the expression of conflicts between different groups within and across societies; it is a vivid example of how technologies with a transformative potential such as the Internet bring with them both opportunities and challenges; and it implies complex balancing between fundamental rights and principles, including freedom of expression and the defence of human dignity.'

To what extent is this 'balance' being reviewed by the Commission in order to counteract grave terror threats and online recruitment of 'foreign fighters' by extremist groups such as IS (Islamic State)?

Are negotiations taking place between social media stakeholders, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google, and the European Commission to establish firm tools and measures which maintain 'free speech' norms, to which European democracies are so committed, but equally to protect European citizens from recruitment, as well as from terror threats.

The authorities in Denmark, France, Britain, and Germany have brought charges for crimes involving hate speech on the Internet. What steps does the Commission intend to take to implement such preventative measures across the Member States?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002332/233231e.pdf>