

**Question for written answer E-013630/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Consequences of the Safe Harbour judgment for companies and private citizens

On 6 October 2015 the Court of Justice ruled that the Commission's decision of 26 July 2000, which states that the USA ensures an adequate level of protection for transferred personal data, is invalid. The Court of Justice found that it was for the national supervisory authorities to examine, with complete independence, whether the transfer of a person's data to a third country complies with the requirements laid down by the Data Protection Directive. This judgment has consequences not only for European companies operating in the USA (e.g. those that use cloud applications owing to a shortage of European server capacity), but also for American companies operating in Europe (such as Facebook) and for private citizens. For example, private citizens are unaware whether their data are treated in the USA in a way that respects their privacy.

1. What consequences does this judgment have for European companies that store data on their American servers for business purposes?
2. What consequences does this judgment have for new American investments in the EU?
3. What will happen to data belonging to EU citizens on American servers?