

**Question for written answer E-013833/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Court of Justice ruling on the 'safe harbour' decision

On 6 October 2015, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled invalid the Commission decision establishing that the USA afforded an adequate level of protection to personal data transferred to it. This ruling means that any Member State may block the sending of personal data to the USA if its national data protection agency deems that it fails to meet EU requirements in this area.

The ECJ also stressed that the Commission had failed in its duty to verify whether the USA provided a level of protection of fundamental rights essentially equivalent to that guaranteed within the EU.

Given the implications of this ruling, what does the Commission intend to do to safeguard the fundamental rights of EU citizens until such time as the new General Data Protection Regulation enters into force?

What steps will it take to ensure that this ruling is applied consistently across all Member States?

What economic ramifications does it expect the ruling to have?