

**Question for written answer E-006365/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Barbara Kappel (ENF)**

Subject: Cyber attacks

According to media reports, the Commission is planning to make EUR 450 million available to improve protection against cyber attacks. The funding is intended for a PPP project involving companies, scientists and authorities together with partners such as Bosch, Siemens, Infineon and Airbus. The companies will also contribute around EUR 1.2 billion of their own capital to the project, making a total of over EUR 1.6 billion. The project, which should initially run from 2017 to 2020, will boost basic research into protection against cybercrime across the EU.

1. The threat posed by industrial espionage, sabotage and data theft is worrying and calls for realistic solutions rather than strategies. What does the Commission expect this PPP to achieve?
2. A study by the digital association Bitkom found that in 2013/2014, every second German company was a victim of hacking. The damage wrought by cybercriminals is estimated at over EUR 51 billion a year. It is hardly practicable to expect individual companies to be able to ward off cyber attacks, which often emanate from outside the EU. In the Commission's view, how should technology be harnessed in order to ensure better protection for individual companies?
3. Industrial expertise in protection against cyber attacks and putting a stop to companies leaving the EU are important for the competitiveness of the EU. How will the Commission balance the need to provide security technology and market opportunities for business while at the same time making Europe a global IT player?