Question for written answer E-000060/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Automating deletion of terrorist content online

The second EU Internet Forum was held on 8 December 2016. It gave European Commissioners, Europol officials, staff of the Radicalisation Awareness Network and Member State representatives an opportunity to meet with large internet corporations in an effort to advance the fight against terrorist content on the internet. The outcome was that Microsoft, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook agreed to introduce arrangements which would improve the way they exchange information.

Partly drawing on methods used to combat child pornography, the four companies intend to create a shared database of information concerning terrorist content that has already been deleted. When they transfer this information, they will be sharing the terrorist content's 'digital fingerprint', thus making that content easier to identify. Their cooperation should speed up the process of deleting content that has already been identified as terrorist on one of the platforms.

Did the Commission suggest that these companies automate deletion of content that has already been identified as terrorist?

If so, can it reveal the internet companies' arguments for not setting up the automation process?