

**Question for written answer E-003587/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Subject: Competition policy: Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp

The Commission has fined Facebook EUR 110 million for providing incorrect or misleading information during its 2014 investigation, conducted under the EU Merger Regulation, into Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp and its ability to establish automated matching between the accounts of Facebook and WhatsApp users. The Commission has imposed this fine despite having run an 'even if' assessment when deciding whether to authorise the merger.

1. Why did the Commission fail to ascertain the full extent of the technical potential of automated matching when it conducted its 'even if' assessment?
2. Does this mean that the 'even if' assessments are not effective enough? If so, how can they be improved?