

Question for written answer E-003741/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Data flows between the EU and non-EU countries

The digital revolution has completely changed the reality in which we currently operate, as we are increasingly relying on new technologies. Data flows, which are becoming the basis for innovative economies, play a crucial role in international trade. Their contribution to GDP growth almost equals that of trade in physical goods and services overall. However, in addition to the obvious benefits inherent in technological developments, we must bear in mind the possible risk to the privacy of our citizens.

In its communication entitled 'Exchanging and Protecting Personal Data in a Globalised World' of 10.01.2017, the Commission stated that commitments regarding market access and cross-border data flows, undertaken under bilateral and multilateral agreements, could in no way undermine the extremely high standards of personal data protection which exist in the EU.

There is no doubt that achieving this objective depends on effectively enforcing data protection legislation. The communication contains only the announcement of a general study of the possibility of creating framework agreements for cooperation between EU data protection authorities and enforcement authorities in certain non-EU countries. In the light of the above, I would like to ask the Commission to provide more detailed information on this initiative.