

Question for written answer E-002833/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Online platforms' responsibility for removing terrorist content

For several months, the Commission has been encouraging online platforms to set up mechanisms to enable them to detect and quickly remove online terrorist content. The Commission published a Communication on that matter in September 2017 and a Recommendation in March 2018. In its Communication, the Commission stated that if no clear progress was made on the removal of illegal content, it would propose legislative and therefore binding measures to tackle the problem. It was to assess whether additional measures were needed by May 2018.

Under current EU law, the limited responsibility of technical intermediaries is enshrined in the Electronic Commerce Directive from the year 2000. Therefore, platforms are not responsible for the content that they host. That Directive currently represents an obstacle to the introduction of binding legislation to ensure that platforms remove illegal content – particularly terrorist content – automatically and without prior warning.

Is the Commission planning to present a legislative proposal on the removal of terrorist content as it stated that it would in September 2017? If so, will the Electronic Commerce Directive need to be revised or amended?