

**Question for written answer E-003013/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Suspension of tens of thousands of Facebook applications for abuse of citizens' data

In recent years, particularly in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal, people have been paying closer attention to safeguarding their privacy and personal data, a right enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Unfortunately, in recent months, we have learned of countless violations of users' data rights around the world, owing to negligence on the part of digital platforms and social networks, or unlawful acts by applications or companies. Facebook, which operates several social networks, is responsible for some of the most egregious abuses.

Facebook has recently announced that its investigations have given rise to the suspension of 'tens of thousands' of applications. These steps to improve Facebook's social networks are welcome, but this official information confirms that data from a potentially significant size of users may have been vulnerable at some point.

1. Is the Commission aware the outcome of, or state of play in, Facebook's investigations?
2. Does it know whether European citizens may have been the target of data breaches by these, now suspended, applications?
3. What measures does it intend to take to punish – if necessary – this network or these applications?

Supporter¹

¹ Question supported by a Member other than the authors: Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE)