

**Question for written answer P-003189/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Eavesdropping and 5G telephony

Encrypted and anonymised connections are technically possible in the fifth generation of mobile telephony. However, European police forces and intelligence agencies are ensuring new eavesdropping opportunities through international standardisation bodies. The relevant bodies are the TC LI (Technical Committee Lawful Interception) working group of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) of the UN's International Telecommunication Union. In the spring, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) called for Europol to become a member of the 3GPP ETSI working group. Shortly before, Europol had published a position paper on 5G for law enforcement authorities in which Europol and the CTC make reference to comments by the German Federal Criminal Police Office.

- (1) Is the Commission looking into the issue of eavesdropping in connection with 5G telephony? What action is it taking in this regard (e.g. setting up expert groups, commissioning studies or research projects)?
- (2) What is Europol's involvement with this issue? Since when has the agency been active in international working groups on the subject, and which ones (e.g. ETSI or ITU)?
- (3) What is the nature of the cooperation between Europol and the Commission and the German Federal Criminal Police Office regarding eavesdropping in connection with 5G telephony?