



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

**B9-0112/2021**

31.1.2021

# **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 143 of the Rules of Procedure

on a ban on interference by big tech companies in parliamentary debating culture

**Christine Anderson, Harald Vilimsky, Roman Haider**

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on a ban on interference by big tech companies in parliamentary debating culture**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, in particular Article 11 thereof,
- having regard to Rule 143 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the speeches made by national parliamentarians and MEPs are undeniably an essential aspect of parliamentary democracy and decision-making;
- B. whereas big tech companies such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have a dominant market position;
- C. whereas YouTube has deleted plenary speeches by opposition politicians<sup>1</sup>;
- 1. Condemns this example of censorship, and points out at the same time that these actions constitute a restriction on the exercise of the free mandate;
- 2. Cautions that the fate of democracy must not be placed in the hands of companies exploiting their dominant market position;
- 3. Stresses that it must not be for digital platforms to set the limits to freedom of expression;
- 4. Emphasises that big tech companies must not be allowed to determine the substance of political debate;
- 5. Emphasises that, in the interests of freedom of expression and political decision-making, plenary speeches must not be selectively deleted by big tech companies, in particular where the speeches in question have gone unchallenged by the Member chairing the plenary sitting;
- 6. Requests the committee responsible to draw up a report on censorship operations of this kind, setting out proposals for penalties which might be imposed on big tech companies that censor plenary speeches;
- 7. Calls, further, for the scope of Article 83(1), second subparagraph, TFEU to be extended to cover the crime of ‘censorship of plenary speeches’.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS\\_20210114\\_OT0069/fpoe-fuerst-youtube-loeschte-gestrigte-parlamentsrede-von-klubobmann-kickl](https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20210114_OT0069/fpoe-fuerst-youtube-loeschte-gestrigte-parlamentsrede-von-klubobmann-kickl)