

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5794/07
by Jules Maaten (ALDE) and Henrik Lax (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Freedom of expression on the Internet

Against the background of the public hearing on 'Censorship & Cyber-dissidents: Freedom on the internet in authoritarian states' held on 7 November 2007 at the European Parliament in Brussels, and with reference to the debate which took place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 6 July 2006 on 'Freedom of expression on the Internet' (P6_CRE(2006)07-06) and the resolution with the same title (P6_TA(2006)0324) adopted on that date:

1. Is the Commission prepared to draw up a directive along the lines of the Global Online Freedom Act in the US, inter alia in order to protect cyber-dissidents against being reported by western companies to authoritarian regimes?
2. Does the Commission intend, in its trade negotiations with foreign governments and within the WTO, to treat Internet censorship as a trade barrier, and, during the forthcoming EU/China summit, to raise the issue of Internet censorship, partly in terms of a restriction on trade?