

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1935/10  
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to the Commission

Subject: Google Street View and protection of privacy

The online service Google Street View offers its users the possibility of viewing wide areas such as whole streets on the Internet. Google Street Service was founded in the USA in 2007 and soon expanded to Australia and Japan. In Great Britain, Holland, Italy, France and Switzerland, similar projects are in the works.

Google systematically digitalises whole streets including passers-by, house numbers, cars and prams. Before publication on the Internet, the faces of passers-by as well as car number plates are blurred so as not to be recognised. Any citizens who do not want their house, car, children or they themselves to be featured on Google Street View have the right to appeal to Google in writing.

If an appeal against such photos is accepted, not only the pictures, but also all raw data is made unrecognisable.

Is the Commission of the opinion that citizens' rights are sufficiently protected through the right of appeal?