

**Question for written answer E-6013/2010
to the Council**
Rule 117
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Subject: Google Street View - protection of privacy and confidentiality of the information collected

An enquiry has been launched by the Connecticut Attorney General's Office to establish whether Google is violating the public's right to privacy through its Street View map service. The enquiry, which concerns several US states, will relate to 'Google's deeply disturbing invasion of personal privacy.'

This is the latest in a series of official complaints lodged against Google and its service, including in Germany, Great Britain, Greece and Japan.

Towns in the German region of Schleswig-Holstein have made no secret of their hostility to Google Street View. According to the local authorities, Google's service facilitates criminal activities, and particularly the preparation of burglaries.

In Greece, the Data Protection Authority (DPA) has taken the decision to prohibit Google vehicles from taking photographs for its Street View mapping service.

In Japan, revealing personal shots have been taken, when the Japanese are very sensitive over the protection of intimacy.

Given the transnational character of the service proposed, the risk of the privacy of the European public being violated and obscurantism as regards protecting the confidentiality of the data collected, what is the Council's attitude and reaction to the development of this type of freely-accessible private service?

What guarantees do the European public have as concerns the protection of their private lives?

Does the Council consider that such guarantees are sufficient?