**Question for written answer E-008569/2012**
**to the Commission**
Rule 117
**Robert Goebbels (S&D)**

Subject:     Clean IT project seeks to monitor all communication via the internet

The official objective of the Clean IT project that is financed by the European Commission and coordinated by the Dutch police is to prevent the use of the internet for terrorist purposes.

Internet firms are being advised to amend their general terms of business and conditions of use so as to prevent illegal use of the internet for terrorist purposes.

According to Clean IT, there is no clear definition of the term 'terrorist use of the internet', and no distinction can be made in the technology between the use of the internet for potentially terrorist purposes and normal, legal use of the internet.

In this situation, it is left to firms to decide whether or not to ban web content according to their own subjective assessment, since enforcement of the law is being transferred to private enterprises, i.e. the providers. Undesirable content would thus be filtered out as a preventive measure and reported to the law enforcement authorities.

1.   Is the Commission following these developments?

2.   Does it intend to take any action against this form of internet monitoring?

3.   Does it not think that the Clean IT project has deviated substantially from its originally announced aim?

4.   What justification is there for internet providers to take over the task of monitoring activity on the internet themselves?