Subject: Total surveillance by Russia during the Olympic Games in Sotchi using the Sorm system

Recent reports have revealed that the Russian authorities will increase surveillance around the Sotchi Olympic Games by monitoring all communications. The surveillance system called Sorm has been upgraded and modernised throughout Russia. The Russian secret service, FSB, will have the capability to use deep-packet inspection technologies and the authority to intercept any telephony or traffic data and track the use of sensitive words in emails and webchats and on social media.

Is the Commission aware of the reports on Russian surveillance of all communications during the Sotchi Olympic Games?

How does the Commission assess this surveillance operation in terms of purpose limitation, proportionality and compliance with Council of Europe and EU data protection rules and legislation?

How does the Commission assess the risks of total surveillance in relation to the recently adopted Russian laws on monitoring the activities of foreign NGOs and prohibiting ‘gay propaganda’?

If the Commission considers the Russian surveillance measures to be contrary to EU fundamental rights and legislation, what action has it taken, or will it take, to address this issue?

Would the Commission find it opportune to warn EU citizens about the potential risks of personal views or business secrets being surveilled by the Russian authorities? If not, why not?

1 http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/06/russia-monitor-communications-sochi-winter-olympics