

Question for written answer E-006100/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Arne Gericke (ECR)

Subject: Combating the darknet and its criminal consequences

The darknet is part of what is termed the 'deep web'; its content cannot be found by search engines, and its users cannot be identified. To access it, special software is required, e.g. the Tor browser ('The Onion Router'). Forums are used as criminal marketplaces, in particular for drugs, arms, ammunition, explosives, counterfeit money, organs, medicines, child pornography, stolen ID cards, credit cards, access data and branded products. According to Europol, losses total EUR 300 billion a year because of darknet activities, with an internet crime clear-up rate of less than 10% across Europe.

1. Does the Commission see specific opportunities, or does it have a specific plan, to resolutely combat darknet crime on Europe-based servers?
2. Is there adequate cooperation between the EU, Europol and national security authorities to resolutely combat the darknet black market for drugs, arms, ammunition, explosives, counterfeit money, organs, medicines, child pornography, stolen ID cards, credit cards, access data and branded products, or should there be more cooperation?