

**Question for written answer E-005533/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Risk to freedom of expression posed by the Commission

Mariya Gabriel, the new Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, has said she wants to set up an expert group on fake news.

As always, the aim is to find ways of incriminating anyone who disseminates fake news by means of penalties or censorship.

Although freedom of expression should be one of the principle values in our democratic societies, it is under constant attack from governments and big companies.

Is the Commission aware of the Orwellian situation of abuse in which it is foundering? What authority has the right to determine what is fake news and therefore deserves to be censored and penalised? Why does the Commission not focus more on the serious abuse committed by internet giants which censor everything they do not care for, with no thought for people's freedom of expression?