

**Question for written answer E-000397/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franck Proust (PPE)**

Subject: Protection against Chinese espionage

On 22 October 2018, following a French intelligence service investigation, a number of media sources reported on a large-scale Chinese spying programme which involved approaching potential recruits through professional social networks, in particular LinkedIn. Among the 'targets' were senior officials from the French administration, and also from the European administration.

1. What specific steps is the Commission taking to protect itself against such attempts before, during and after the recruitment of its staff?
2. Have specific security procedures been laid down for the recruitment of dual-nationals – nationals of an EU Member State and a third country – especially where such individuals are required to work on sensitive issues (trade negotiations, strategic industrial areas, information subject to restricted access)?
3. Does the Commission have an idea of the number of its officials and officials of other EU institutions who have been 'approached'?