

**Question for written answer E-001398/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE)

Subject: US facial recognition verification testing programme

On 17 March 2019, research published by Slate revealed that the US Government has been using images of child pornography victims, US visa applicants, travellers boarding aeroplanes in the USA and prisoners for its facial recognition verification testing programme, without their consent. The programme helps software companies and researchers to evaluate the accuracy of their facial recognition software.¹

1. Does the Commission know whether any images of EU citizens have been used in the facial recognition verification testing programme?
2. Does the Commission consider the use of facial images to be consistent with EU data protection and privacy laws and all relevant EU-US agreements, and if not, will it suspend transatlantic data transfers until the US authorities have confirmed that the programme is fully compliant with all EU-US agreements?
3. Can the Commission confirm that this use of facial images is not consistent with EU data protection and privacy laws and that EU funding can therefore never be used for such purposes, even in the context of research and innovation?

¹ <https://slate.com/technology/2019/03/facial-recognition-nist-verification-testing-data-sets-children-immigrants-consent.html>