

**Question for written answer E-003555/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Frontex probing of social networks

The European border agency Frontex scours the Internet for information about migration movements and people smugglers. The information found is used for strategic purposes and in connection with operations. Frontex also commissions relevant analyses from private-sector firms. Monitoring extends to forums, blogs and the services provided by, among others, Telegram, Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter and Instagram.

1. What information that is searched for and found on the Internet serves strategic purposes, and what information is used in connection with Frontex operations?
2. In what instances are personal data processed, too, and in what databases at Frontex or other agencies can they subsequently be saved?
3. What software from which manufacturers does Frontex use for automated Internet searching? What firms are commissioned to carry out the action concerned, and to what costs does that give rise?