Question for written answer E-000507/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Clearview

On 18 January, the New York Times revealed how Clearview AI, a facial recognition app with a database of more than three billion pictures that have been collected from social media and other websites, is being used by over 600 law enforcement agencies worldwide. The app allows them to use a picture of a person, upload it, and get links to public pictures of that person.

1. Does the Commission know whether any law enforcement or intelligence agencies in the EU are using Clearview, and if Clearview is using images of citizens in the EU as well?

2. Does the Commission consider this use of a commercial app for facial recognition technology in law enforcement or intelligence to be consistent with EU data protection and privacy laws and all relevant EU-US agreements on law enforcement cooperation?

3. Will the temporary ban on the use of facial recognition in the public sphere in the EU, as announced by the Commission, apply to the use of Clearview and similar apps by law enforcement agencies, and to law enforcement cooperation with the US?