

Question for written answer E-001766/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Risks of the health silk road

Italy is currently set to become the only G7 country and EU Member State involved in the Chinese geopolitical project known as the 'Health Silk Road' that is being launched by the Italian Prime Minister and the Chinese President.

It is no secret that China is seeking to acquire health and technological data from elsewhere.

Huawei has offered to work together with Italy on a cloud network for the real-time sharing of health data. However, the lack of transparency surrounding the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the controversial use of personal data in China give cause for grave concern.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission consider it urgently necessary to seek information from the Italian Prime Minister regarding the substance of these agreements?
2. Will it assess the strategic importance of the health data of Member State citizens and the management thereof, given that they are regarded as personal data directly relevant to the protection of fundamental rights and given that hospitals and public and private health structures are regarded as 'critical infrastructures' under the NIS Directive?
3. Does the agreement take account of the 5G safety recommendations and toolbox measures and of the need to uphold and protect national and European sovereignty and autonomy against possible foreign interference?