

**Question for written answer E-001952/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos

Subject: The transmission of data by telecommunications companies to the Commission and the processing of this data

According to reports, Commissioner Breton has called on telecommunications companies to transmit user data to the Commission supposedly in order to 'examine the impact of the restrictive measures taken by the Member States' owing to the coronavirus pandemic, and its transmission methods. It is even maintained that this action complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which confirms that it is being used as an alibi for keeping records on workers and peoples as a generalised practice. Assertions that the data will be 'anonymous' and that they will be destroyed after the end of the pandemic can in no way ensure the protection of personal data, as they are already at the mercy of all sorts of EU and national repressive apparatus, as experience has shown. It also shows that state repressive functions and practices, which are applied during 'extraordinary' periods and restrict trade union and civil rights and freedoms, remain in place when things have gone back to 'normal', since they have already been internalised by workers and peoples.

Already in Member States such as Germany, Italy and Austria, mobile phone companies are transmitting data to national authorities to control compliance with the restrictions imposed owing to the coronavirus crisis.

How does the Commission view:

demands for the annulment and specific prohibition of any processing and transmission of personal data by telecommunications companies both to the Commission and to the authorities of Member States?