

**Question for written answer E-002042/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Frédérique Ries (Renew), **Valérie Hayer** (Renew), **Stéphane Séjourné** (Renew)

Subject: 'New IP' internet redesign project

The Chinese Government is proposing to radically change the way the internet functions at a global level and enable governments to control access to the internet and to the information it carries ¹.

Called 'New IP', the project was presented in September 2019 and February 2020 at meetings of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), one of the UN's oldest specialised institutions. Tasked with laying down the technological standards for the telecommunication sector, the ITU is due to hold its quadrennial meeting in India in late November.

'New IP' would overturn the open architecture of the internet, replacing it with a deliberately top-down structure. Access providers, controlled by the state in many countries, would authorise access to all devices on the network but could just as readily refuse access, thereby posing a serious threat to the freedom of expression and information throughout the world.

Given that the EU is a member of the ITU, will the Commission tell us:

1. if it is aware of New IP and, if so, what its assessment of it is?
2. what its role in the ITU is and how it defends the principle of an open internet which is in line with European values ² ?

¹ Madhumita Murgia and Anna Gross, 'The Battle to Control the Internet', in Financial Times, FT Magazine, 28 and 29 March 2020, No 40360, pp. 14-15. Available at <https://www.ft.com/content/ba94c2bc-6e27-11ea-9bca-bf503995cd6f> [consulted on 30 March 2020].

² See in particular the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 11 thereof on the freedom of expression and of information.