

**Question for written answer E-003364/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tomislav Sokol (PPE)**

Subject: Consumer protection in the age of sophisticated cyberattacks

The aviation industry has been directly affected by the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Flight cancellations and special written vouchers issued for unfulfilled travel plans leave consumers, legally speaking, effectively providing airlines with interest-free credit. However, the rights of air passengers were further compromised by a recent sophisticated cyberattack on the system of a well-known airline, which endangered the personal data of thousands of travellers, including many EU citizens. According to sources connected to the airline, the credit card data of more than 2 000 passengers was also exposed. In view of the foregoing:

1. How does the Commission intend to better protect European consumers from sophisticated cyberattacks, thereby increasing the level of cybersecurity in the EU?
2. What practical legal mechanisms does the Commission intend to propose within its current legislative mandate in order to enhance consumer protection?
3. The EU is indisputably a global leader in personal data protection, mainly on account of the coherent legal provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679. However, will the Commission strive to make the EU a global leader in the area of cybersecurity too?