Question for written answer E-004645/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Sophia in 't Veld (Renew), Morten Petersen (Renew), Karen Melchior (Renew)

Subject: Illegal spying on citizens by the Danish Defence Intelligence Service

On 24 August, Lars Findsen, the director of the Danish Defence Intelligence Service was suspended after the agency was accused of spying on Danish citizens over the past six years, and of passing on information about them. He could have played an active role in withholding information or even deliberately misinforming the supervisory agency 1.

1. Have EU legal instruments and arrangements for processing and sharing personal data been used to spy illegally on citizens?

2. What will be the impact of such a scandal be for law enforcement and security cooperation within the EU, including data sharing arrangements and interoperability, which relies completely on mutual trust and the assumption there are adequate safeguards and oversight in all Member States?

3. Will the Commission investigate if the fundamental rights of EU citizens have been violated, and what new fundamental rights safeguards will the Commission propose in the context of the EU Security Strategy to protect citizens from abuses, such as illegal and arbitrary surveillance by national law enforcement and security agencies?

---