

**Question for written answer E-005505/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: Pegasus spyware

According to the Toronto University Citizen Lab research team, NSO Pegasus spyware has been deployed in 45 countries, including EU Member States such as Greece, France and Poland. Despite claims by the Israeli supplier company that the software is being used by national authorities throughout the world to combat crime, it is emerging that repressive regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Mexico are using it to track journalists and dissidents, resulting in their imprisonment and execution. In the light of its answer to question E-003842/2019:

1. Can the Commission indicate the outcome of its contacts with the Cypriot authorities to clarify matters regarding the sale of this software to authoritarian governments on EU territory?
2. Does it have any information regarding the possibility of European nationals that are activists or journalists, for example, having fallen victim to this spyware?
3. What steps will it take to ensure that any use of Pegasus or similar spyware by EU citizens is clearly and firmly prohibited under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 that regulate trade in invasive software?