

**Question for written answer E-006246/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Traian Băsescu (PPE)**

Subject: Digital rights in the post-COVID world

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a major digital rights crisis. Hasty measures to contain the spread of the virus, such as *biosurveillance*, *track and trace* or censorship, are not necessarily provisional in nature, as many of them will become irreversible once introduced. For example, certain mobile applications enable reciprocal monitoring by users, facilitating the horizontal and vertical sharing of sensitive medical data.

Given the role of digital technologies in the transition from containment to reconstruction and resumption of social contact in the wake of the pandemic, it is necessary to ensure respect for individual rights, including anonymity, transparency and control over data collected. Procedures should be clearly established in advance for assessing the effectiveness of these instruments, which should be monitored carefully once they are being implemented. However, many corners have been cut because of the emergency situation created by the pandemic. In view of this:

1. What action is Commission taking to ensure that, after the pandemic, digital technologies developed in the Union will not be used for anything other than what is strictly necessary to respond to the crisis?
2. What legislative and non-legislative measures is it taking to ensure that citizens remain in control of their data and that their rights are protected from encroachments by the developers of *track* and *trace* applications?