

**Question for written answer E-006502/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Market distortion through Facebook monopoly

Facebook has been relentlessly engaged in buying up competing companies or companies with operating in different specialist areas, including ConnectU, FriendFeed, Nextstop, Hot Potato, Drop.io, Karma, Face.com and Oculus VR, not to mention Instagram and WhatsApp, its best-known key acquisitions,

thereby securing a social media monopoly and a dominant position in the communications sector. There can be no doubt as to its objective. In order to offer maximum value to advertisers, Facebook is literally seeking to provide comprehensive user profiles, giving detailed information regarding their personalities and preferences. No citizen is now outside the field of vision of Facebook's all-seeing eye. In addition to the resulting breaches of privacy associated with it, of which consumers are unaware, Facebook's dominant market position is also distorting the cost of advertising and weakening the position of smaller traders that cannot afford to compete with larger market players in this area.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission carrying out any investigations into Facebook's market position and impact on personal privacy?
2. What view does the Commission take of Facebook's market position?
3. Is the Commission prepared to demand that Facebook divest itself of certain activities and to impose fines on it if necessary?