

**Question for written answer E-006529/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Exploiting terrorist attacks to push forward the Commission's agenda

Already in 2015, following the terrorist attacks in Paris, the Commission took advantage of citizens' fear to push through its interests by tightening up arms legislation. Five years later, this year's attack in Vienna is now being used as a pretext for the Commission to gain access to encrypted messages from EU citizens.

1. Does the Commission really believe that the solution to the fight against terrorism is to control and monitor law-abiding EU citizens?
2. Does the Commission agree that, despite the measures taken to control EU citizens, terrorist attacks are still taking place in a brutal manner, if not more so and more frequently than ever, meaning that the precautions taken in relation to terrorism have had little effect?
3. Instead of restricting the freedoms of EU citizens, does the Commission intend to combat terrorism actively and, above all, directly, and if so, how?