

**Question for written answer E-006721/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Principle of data being hosted in the European Union abandoned

On 25 November, the Commission presented its regulation on European data governance. However, although to begin with, a requirement that data be processed in the EU was planned, the final draft version does not mention this at all. Worse, it continues to apply free movement to data described as 'highly sensitive'.

While the coronavirus crisis has shown that when it comes to giving up sovereignty, there are limits, the Commission has undertaken to return to this policy area to protect EU citizens. Several months later, these promises have given away to disillusionment.

Since the digital powers have all understood that retaining sovereignty over data storage enables them to protect their fellow citizens and their digital enterprises, how will the Commission protect EU data and what will be the criteria used to decide that a particular state will protect data equally as well as the EU?

Based on these criteria, will China and the United States be deemed states that will protect data equally as well as the EU? If not, will the Commission force the companies concerned to host their data within the EU if they wish to continue to utilise said data? If these companies refuse, will the Commission be able to insist on said data being deleted?