

**Question for written answer E-000278/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Angelika Niebler (PPE), Stefan Berger (PPE), Andreas Schwab (PPE)

Subject: Standard-setting in the International Telecommunication Union

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialised agency of the United Nations which is responsible for the international standardisation of information technology and communications technology. The ITU standards have a considerable influence on the way in which new technology is developed and applied in the world.

There is currently a sense that state-controlled companies are becoming heavily involved in the ITU, which is causing the influence of the EU and of European companies in international standardisation to be reduced. This gives cause for concern.

Only recently, European members of the ITU narrowly succeeded in preventing the adoption of the suggestion by China Telecom that face recognition in the area of public security and services should be made the subject of a new standard. The proposal entitled 'Requirements for face recognition application in visual surveillance' (F.FRAVSRqs) is a clear warning signal for Europe. The EU should take a more prominent role in international standardisation.

1. What action is the Commission currently taking to increase the EU's influence in international standardisation?
2. What ideas are there in the Commission for motivating companies and organisations based in the EU to involve themselves in international standardisation procedures, particularly those of the ITU, in accordance with European perceptions?