

**Question for written answer E-000333/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Roman Haider (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)**

Subject: YouTube censorship

The YouTube video platform has been deleting videos and channels which do not conform to the political views of its operators since mid-2020.

With two billion users a year, YouTube is the biggest online video platform provider in the world.

This preeminent position gives the subsidiary of Google LLC the power to decide which content, ideas and opinions can be disseminated.

This was in evidence recently when YouTube deleted a speech by Herbert Kickl, chief coordinator of the FPÖ, from the 'Austria first' channel for an alleged breach of the 'Guidelines against spreading misinformation in connection with COVID-19' enforced by the platform.

A companies will thus be able to set filters in future so that popular parties can only make themselves heard if their politics fit in with the company's own convictions.

1. Is the Commission monitoring this development of censorship by private companies?
2. Will the Commission propose legislation to prevent companies which are used by the population at large from restricting political parties' freedom of expression?