

**Question for written answer E-000841/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Beata Mazurek (ECR)

Subject: Democratic scrutiny of social media and upholding fundamental rights

We are hearing more and more reports about unclear policies with regard to the blocking of profiles on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – services that operate on the basis of their own rules. Given that these are international services, it is vital that a balance be struck between safeguarding universal values such as the freedom of speech and individual rights, and the need to take action when content breaks the law. At the moment, users' profiles can be blocked automatically for a number of reasons that are often unclear, with no detailed checks being carried out as to whether allegations are well founded.

For example, there was recently a public outcry in Poland when Facebook blocked, citing 'social issues', a post written by Father Filip Buczyński, the founder and president of the Little Prince children's hospice in Lublin, to promote palliative care for children at the perinatal hospice in Lublin. It was only owing to pressure from the public in Poland that Facebook reversed its decision. In the light of the foregoing:

Is the Commission intending to introduce mechanisms and take action to protect European internet users against improper – and often discriminatory – practices like the removal and blocking of accounts and posts by foreign social media outfits, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, that operate on the European market and have an impact on our security? If so, what mechanisms will it introduce and what action will it take?