

**Question for written answer E-001327/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pedro Marques (S&D)

Subject: Legislation on online hate speech

At the beginning of February, Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders, in an interview with Agência Lusa (a Portuguese news agency), stated that he was working on the definition to be given to the crime of online hate speech, thus paving the way for this type of speech to be considered a crime in the EU.

I am well aware that there is still some way to go before this step, which is provided for in the Action Plan for European Democracy, can be completed, since definitions of new crimes punishable in the EU require unanimity in the Council.

As Commissioner Reynders explained, once such legislation is in place, platforms will have a legal instrument at their disposal to enable them to act, which I believe to be an extremely important step.

In the light of this, when does the Commission intend to submit its legislative proposal in this regard?