

**Question for written answer E-001873/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Virginie Joron (ID)**

**Subject:** Half a billion Facebook accounts leaked – Facebook has knowingly withheld this information from authorities for years

In early April 2021, news broke of a data breach involving 533 million Facebook accounts<sup>1</sup>. Personal information is at stake, including telephone numbers, locations and some email addresses<sup>2</sup>. This breach could affect 20 million Facebook users in France<sup>3</sup>.

According to reports, on Tuesday 6 April Facebook told the Irish Data Protection Commission that it chose not to notify the relevant authorities<sup>4</sup> of the breach, arguing that the breach took place before the EU's General Data Protection Regulation came into effect.

1. Can the Commission explain whether or not Facebook is allowed to 'choose not to notify' the relevant authorities of a personal data breach?
2. Can the Commission shed some light on the measures available to hold companies such as Facebook accountable for consciously deciding to keep information on a data breach to themselves?
3. Now that this news has emerged, will the Commission take legal action against Facebook?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2021/04/05/cinq-questions-sur-la-fuite-de-donnees-concernant-plus-de-533-millions-de-comptes-facebook\\_6075616\\_4408996.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/pixels/article/2021/04/05/cinq-questions-sur-la-fuite-de-donnees-concernant-plus-de-533-millions-de-comptes-facebook_6075616_4408996.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/06/tech/facebook-data-leaked-what-to-do/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.liberation.fr/economie/economie-numerique/facebook-les-donnees-de-533-millions-d-utilisateurs-en-fuite-sur-le-web-20210406\\_FNRIQR4PXB5BK6ALSEREIOPOY/](https://www.liberation.fr/economie/economie-numerique/facebook-les-donnees-de-533-millions-d-utilisateurs-en-fuite-sur-le-web-20210406_FNRIQR4PXB5BK6ALSEREIOPOY/)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/data-protection/news/facebook-to-irish-data-body-533-million-user-breach-took-place-before-gdpr/>