

**Question for written answer E-002139/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU reaction to the Facebook data leaks

Recently it came to light that the personal data of millions of Facebook users, including 100 million EU citizens, have been leaked¹. Facebook takes the view that it did not have to report the leaks, as they took place before the GDPR came into force. However, the timeline Facebook puts forward is inconsistent. According to Ireland's data protection coordinator, Facebook is also refusing to actively cooperate with the investigation.² What is more, on 20 April 2021, a leaked internal email from Facebook disclosed that it wanted to 'frame this type of data-scraping leak as an industry-wide issue and play it down' in the long term.³ Facebook hopes that because leaks occur frequently, it will be considered normal and thus avoid criticism for its lack of transparency about specific incidents.

1. What is the Commission's reaction to this internal email from Facebook in which it states that it seeks to normalise data leaks?
2. Does the GDPR provide a strong enough framework to act decisively to tackle the lack of responsibility of big technology companies when it comes to personal data?
3. In what ways can the future Digital Markets Act provide additional protection here?

¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/stolen-data-of-533-million-facebook-users-leaked-online-2021-4?international=true&r=US&IR=T>

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/irish-data-regulator-examining-facebook-data-leak/>

³ <https://datanews.knack.be/ict/nieuws/interne-mail-toont-hoe-facebook-veiligheidsproblemen-wil-normaliseren/article-news-1724927.html>