

**Question for written answer E-002876/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Investigation of Facebook over a leak of data of EU citizens

A European regulator has announced that it is investigating Facebook over a leak of 533 million people's data. Ireland's Data Protection Commission will probe whether Facebook broke EU privacy laws. Facebook could face a fine of up to 4 % of its USD 86 billion global revenue if found guilty.

A mechanism in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for simplifying the investigation of cross-border cases means that Ireland's Data Protection Commission (DPC) is Facebook's lead data regulator in the EU. However, it has been criticised for its handling of and approach to GDPR complaints and investigations – including the length of time it takes to issue decisions on major cross-border cases. This is particularly true for those involving Facebook.

1. What is the current stage of the DPC's investigation?
2. Does the investigation involve any other actors that could support the DPC?
3. Can the EU citizens whose data was leaked by Facebook rely on the protection provided by the GDPR, and if not, will the Commission come up with a legislative change to make the protection of EU citizens' data more effective?