

Question for written answer E-003167/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Urmas Paet (Renew)

Subject: Personal data sharing with non-EU countries

Since 2011, Portuguese authorities have been disclosing the personal data of the organisers of political protests in Lisbon – such as full names, home addresses, ID numbers, emails and phone numbers – to a number of Portugal-based diplomatic missions and international foreign affairs ministries.

Both Portuguese citizens and residents of Portugal are being put at risk. The protesters' personal data has been shared not only with Russia, but also Israel, Cuba, Venezuela and Angola when relevant political protests concerning these countries took place in Lisbon.

Had Lisbon city hall only been sharing this personal data with local Portuguese entities, it would have violated nothing other than a number of provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation in Portugal, which would have required resolution at local level. However, the personal data of EU citizens and residents has been shared outside of the EU with countries such as Russia, which poses a danger to activists, effectively rendering this an EU issue.

1. Does the Commission consider the sharing of such information by Portuguese authorities to be a violation of EU law?
2. What will it do to deter Portugal from sharing such personal data?
3. What will it do to protect the people whose data has been shared from possible attacks by foreign governments?