

**Question for written answer E-003644/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jordi Solé** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: New case of spyware being used against EU citizens

On 15 July 2021, Microsoft revealed that a piece of malware was being sold by Candiru, an Israeli company, to government agencies around the world. Similar cyberweapons have been used to hack into computers, phones or network infrastructure that governments have identified as targets. Candiru confirmed that the only victims that have been identified inside the EU are from Catalonia<sup>1</sup>, all of them linked to the Catalan independence movement.

This is the second politically motivated surveillance case affecting EU citizens in Catalonia. In July 2020, senior politicians, such as the then President of the Parliament of Catalonia Roger Torrent, were victims of another type of spyware, Pegasus. A recent leak suggests that many lawyers and activists across the world were also targeted by this spyware<sup>2</sup>. These cases have already been denounced in previous parliamentary questions<sup>34</sup>.

Given the continuity and the seriousness of such politically motivated surveillance cases in the EU:

1. Will the Commission take any action to ensure that Member States respect the confidentiality of communications as enshrined in the ePrivacy Directive?
2. How will the Commission guarantee that no Member State uses technology that violates the privacy of democratically elected politicians, political parties or government representatives?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.microsoft.com/security/blog/2021/07/15/protecting-customers-from-a-private-sector-offensive-actor-using-0-day-exploits-and-devilstongue-malware/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/jul/19/spyware-leak-suggests-lawyers-and-activists-at-risk-across-globe?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/jul/19/spyware-leak-suggests-lawyers-and-activists-at-risk-across-globe?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-004571\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-004571_EN.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-004678\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-004678_EN.html)