

**Question for written answer E-003662/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Eva Kaili (S&D)

Subject: Pegasus spyware used in an EU country to spy on journalists

According to the *Guardian*, which has published a collaborative investigation run by the French not-for-profit journalism organisation Forbidden Stories, Hungary's Prime Minister, Victor Orbán, has used the Pegasus spyware of the Israeli company NSO in order to spy on selected journalists, opposition politicians and lawyers. Further analysis by Amnesty International has confirmed that the mobile device of at least one journalist has been infected with the spyware. Also according to the *Guardian*, a former NSO employee has confirmed that Hungary has been a client of the company – adding to the list of countries involved, which include Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Azerbaijan and India.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Does it plan to open an official investigation into the claims of this research, as it would constitute the first official use of this spyware by an EU country against its own citizens and a flagrant infringement of privacy, the General Data Protection Regulation and the latest ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union that Member States must not collect the mobile and internet data of their citizens?
2. After this incident, how does the Commission plan to definitively enforce the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 that regulate trade in invasive software and also to oversee imports of spyware from non-EU countries by EU governments?