

**Question for written answer E-003676/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Protecting journalists from assassination, and vigilance in the European Union

One hundred and eighty journalists have been spied on by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Bahrain, Hungary, India, Morocco, Mexico, Rwanda, Turkey and Togo using the Pegasus software produced by the Israeli firm NSO Monitor. People have been spied on in Spain, France, Great Britain, Germany and the United States, as well as in Mexico, where Cecilio Pineda was murdered. Peter R. de Vries died on 15 July 2021, shot down in Amsterdam after talking about a criminal investigation on the television. In the EU Daphne Caruana was assassinated in Malta in 2017, Ján Kuciak in Slovakia in 2018 and Giorgos Karaivaz in Greece in April 2021.

1. Will the Commission recommend an immediate moratorium on the purchase of the Israeli software and surveillance technology until guarantees are in place concerning freedom of information, the right to protest and privacy?
2. Will it start its own investigation to be certain that Hungary's security services comply with the basic fundamental rights in force in the EU Member States?
3. What steps has it taken to protect the lives of investigative journalists in cases of corruption and organised crime, following the murders in Malta, Slovakia, Greece and the Netherlands?