

**Question for written answer E-004565/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Vincenzo Sofo (ECR)

Subject: Facebook's digital monopoly

On Monday 4 October there was an outage of the Facebook, Instagram and Whatsapp social media platforms, which lasted for several hours and caused estimated damage to the world economy to the tune of some one billion dollars.

This event highlighted the many major economic risks that – in a world where the use of the web and social media platforms is now an integral part of normal work, business and production – the quasi-monopoly of companies such as Facebook Inc. can pose to the economic lives of states.

In addition, these platforms have carved out for themselves an increasingly vital role in the social and political lives of countries and have gained absolute power in disseminating information and governing democratic debate.

Can the Commission therefore say – given that in its impact assessment accompanying the proposal on the Digital Services Act it stated that it considered very large online platforms to be 'public spaces' which must be subject to enhanced control and accountability – what concrete measures it intends to take in order to regulate the social media market, in terms of anti-concentration rules and tighter constraints relating to transparency and democracy?