Question for written answer E-000206/2022/rev.1 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: EU border – Dialect recognition software developed by Atos

In order to determine the identity and origin of asylum seekers, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) in Germany is using IT assistance systems consisting of dialect recognition software, a transliteration assistant and the analysis of asylum seekers’ mobile data devices. The development of this IT assistance software was driven jointly by Nuance and its parent company Atos SE. Atos is also involved in the analysis of asylum seekers’ mobile phone data.

1. Does Frontex, or other agencies, also use this dialect recognition software to determine identities? If so, please list the information by company providing the software and exactly where it is being used (by country).

2. In how many cases did the analysis by the dialect recognition software contradict the information provided by the asylum applicants, how many asylum applications were rejected on the basis of the dialect analysis, and which mother tongues were analysed? Please list by authority, year and mother tongue.

3. During the development of the software, the current Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, Thierry Breton, was still Chairman and CEO of Atos. Did Thierry Breton participate in meetings with EU officials regarding IT assistance systems, or was Mr Breton involved in the acquisition of EU funding for Atos’s software?