

**Question for written answer E-000872/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: Belgian and French data protection authorities sanction EU DisinfoLab for its failure to comply with EU directives

On 5 November 2021, Alexandre Benalla, Emmanuel Macron's close friend and former deputy chief of staff, was sentenced to three years in prison for having assaulted people on 1 May 2018 and illegally used diplomatic passports¹.

During this case, EU DisinfoLab politically profiled – and politically ‘harassed’ – 55 000 people and accounts that had mentioned the scandal on Twitter, publishing and disseminating Excel files containing personal data (sexual, religious, political preferences, among other information) in breach of Articles 5, 6, 9, 12, 14 and 32 of the EU Data Protection Regulation.

After having received 240 complaints, on 27 January 2022, the Belgian and French authorities sanctioned the organisation and one of its founders, Nicolas Vanderbiest. The offenders' identities were made public given the nature – dissemination of information – and seriousness of the infringement².

1. In view of the sanctions, and to protect the reputation of the EU institutions, will the Commission ensure that EU DisinfoLab and its management are removed from the transparency register of interest representatives³ and blocked from receiving any current or future EU funding?
2. What procedures can it launch to update the register following court convictions and check whether EU funds were used to commit the offences in question?

¹ https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2018/07/18/le-monde-identifie-sur-une-video-un-collaborateur-de-m-macron-frappant-un-manifestant-le-1er-mai-a-paris_5333330_823448.htmlhttps://www.lepoint.fr/justice/alexandre-benalla-condamne-a-trois-ans-de-prison-dont-un-ferme-05-11-2021-2450777_2386.php

² <https://www.autoriteprotectiondonnees.be/publications/decision-quant-au-fond-n-13-2022.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/staticPage/displayStaticPage.do?reference=CODE_OF_CONDUCT&locale=en#en