

**Question for written answer E-001233/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Promoting alternative social media in the Member States

Millions of citizens in the Member States use the services of the firm Meta (Facebook and Instagram). Certain networks that were active on the European market before Facebook were subsequently prosecuted by Facebook, possibly capitulating in the light of its superior financial firepower¹.

Where a US service is used, personal data of Member State citizens is managed, analysed and commercially exploited by a US firm. Meta is said to have little regard, in the process, for whether its services are harmful to users².

As regards reach and competitiveness, firms that win customers via particular services have to rely on a secret algorithm. Their advertising expenditure payments go from the EU to the US. Because of financial optimisation measures, the firm pays no significant amount of tax – in any EU Member State – on its sales to customers in the EU.

1. In the light of the General Data Protection Regulation, how does the Commission view the relaying, storage and analysis of relevant user data of Member State citizens on servers in the US?
2. To what extent is the Commission planning to promote alternative social media in the Member States in order to achieve digital sovereignty, but also to improve economic value-added in the Member States?

¹ <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/wirtschaft/das-geschaefft-mit-der-geklauten-idee-original-und-kopie/10767996.html>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2022-0121_EN.html