

**Question for written answer E-001304/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Moritz Körner (Renew)**

Subject: 'Private relay' function

Article 25 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides for data protection by design and through default settings.

As part of its iOS 15 operating system, Apple has introduced a new function designated 'private relay'. Paying iCloud customers can use it to encrypt and divert all their Safari browsing activities via two separate servers. Consequently, not only can an Internet provider no longer see what a user is doing, but the user's real IP address is also masked from the website being visited. Because of the way in which the overall system is set up, however, Apple should not be able to view browsing habits either. According to media reports, several European network carriers have voiced opposition to the 'private relay' function in a joint letter to the Commission.

1. In the light of Article 25 of the GDPR, does the Commission regard the network carriers' arguments as valid?
2. In the Commission's view, what benefits and drawbacks do concepts such as 'private relay' have?