Question for written answer E-002825/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Frontex PeDRA programme

On 7 July 2022, investigative journalists published a story about Frontex’s PeDRA (Processing of Personal Data for Risk Analysis) programme. Their report described how this programme allows Frontex border guards to collect sensitive personal data from migrants and asylum seekers, including genetic data and information on religious beliefs and sexual orientation, as well as to scan social media profiles. The data collected is processed and shared with Europol and security agencies in the Member States. Moreover, it appears that the Frontex Data Protection Office (DPO) expressed strong reservations and that the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) was not consulted following the Commission’s advice not to do so.

We are extremely concerned that the expanded surveillance programme not only targets non-suspects, but also loosens restrictions concerning the exchange of personal data between Frontex and Europol and will lead to discriminatory criminalisation of innocent people.

1. Does the Commission believe that this programme is in line with data protection requirements and fundamental standards enshrined in EU law?

2. Why was no impact assessment performed before the start of the programme and no evaluation made after it was started?

3. Why does the Commission not follow the advice given by Frontex’s DPO or seek advice from the EDPS on the collection, analysis and transfer of highly sensitive data?

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