Question for written answer E-003094/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: EU-funded ‘Centaur’ and ‘Hyperion’ surveillance systems violating fundamental rights in Greece

Recent reports¹ state that Greece has designed two EU-funded surveillance systems, ‘Centaur’ and ‘Hyperion’, using behavioural analytics technology and constant surveillance of reception areas, respectively. Both systems were deployed without the prior appointment of a data protection officer or a mandatory data protection impact assessment. Moreover, the supervisory authorities (EDPB-EDPS) stated in Joint Opinion 5/2021 that behavioural recognition technologies should be banned owing to the unacceptable risk they pose to fundamental rights. Despite these clear rights violations, these intrusive surveillance systems have reportedly received tens of millions of euro from the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Internal Security Fund²³.

1. How much exactly did the EU spend on the Centaur and Hyperion systems, what was the source of the funds, and how much funding has been or will be provided for similar systems (broken down by system/project)?

2. It is clear that the Greek Government is unwilling or unable to conduct the required ‘independent investigation’ following allegations of non-compliant expenditure of EU funds in violation of fundamental rights. What is the Commission’s assessment of compliance with fundamental rights and how is it investigating this?

3. Is the Commission taking action to reject cost reimbursement or retract funding for the Centaur and Hyperion projects, and what measures are being taken to prevent future EU-funding of projects that violate fundamental rights?

³ https://algorithmwatch.org/en/greek-camps-surveillance/