

**Question for written answer E-000024/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tom Vandendriessche** (ID)

Subject: Payment by the FBI to Twitter and the US intelligence community's influence in connection with censoring the Hunter Biden laptop story

Part 7 of the Twitter Files was released on 19 December 2022. It showed that the FBI contacted Twitter to report suspicions of a Russian hack-and-leak operation. The Hunter Biden story was also said to be part of that Russian operation.

The FBI contacted high-ranking figures within Twitter on several occasions and asked them to censor the story. Some USD 3.4 million was also made available to pay Twitter for staffing time during the campaign.

It later emerged that no evidence of Russian influence in connection with the story had been found.

1. Is the Commission aware of similar accounts in Europe that have involved social media firms or government agencies attempting to censor certain news stories?
2. What will the Commission do to prevent such censorship at European level?

Submitted: 9.1.2023