

**Question for written answer E-000041/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Household appliances/robot vacuum cleaners with hidden recording features

The German Federal Network Agency have warned against household appliances that have hidden recording features that allow them to transmit recordings via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Robot vacuum cleaners capable of transmitting images or sound recordings to an owner's smartphone could in such cases be banned. Through these features, such everyday household appliances could be misappropriated or used as espionage tools.

Consumers are therefore advised to watch out for cameras and microphones when purchasing these products, which mostly come from the US and China¹.

1. How can products in breach of European data protection rules continue to be offered on the European market and what is the Commission's justification for this?
2. How does the Data Protection Directive affect apps recommended for use with robot vacuum cleaners that secretly pass on the data of the person concerned to third parties? I would like to ask the Commission for an opinion here.
3. What will the Commission do to curb non-European countries' influence on the European market?

Submitted: 10.1.2023

¹

https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/20221207_SmarteProdukte.html