

**Question for written answer E-000451/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Surveillance technology and Iran

In Iran, closed-circuit TV (CCTV) technology linked to EU companies' value chains is being systematically used to identify political opponents, including women using the hijab 'incorrectly' on the street. Other autocratic regimes also use surveillance technology to commit human rights violations. The corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD) proposed by the Commission in 2022 has the potential to prevent these types of human rights violations after it comes into force. However, its effectiveness will depend entirely on the way due diligence duty is defined in the text.

In November 2022, Council's general approach on CSDDD diluted the due diligence duty by removing mandatory due diligence for the use of companies' products or the provision of services. Yet there are entire sectors, such as IT and technology, where most likely and severe human rights risk concentrate downstream and which would be unreasonably cut out the scope of the directive.

During the negotiations in the CSDDD trilogue will the Commission prioritise ensuring that due diligence obligations also extend to downstream activities, including foreseeable product use and provision services?

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