

Question for written answer E-001570/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Kim Van Sparrentak (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Twitter requiring paid subscription for encryption and security of personal messages

Twitter has announced that the securing of private messaging on its platform through encryption shall only work for messages sent between senders and recipients with a paid-for Twitter subscription¹. Hence, Twitter is making basic safety functions to protect people and their fundamental rights subject to payment. Making fundamental rights and online safety subject to the numbers in people's bank accounts is a dangerous and concerning development.

1. How does this fit with the right to the protection of personal data and the equal protection of that right for all persons residing in the EU?
2. Is this reconcilable with Twitter's soon to-be obligations under the Digital Services Act, under which it will be designated a 'very large online platform'², notably regarding the systemic risk-assessments for health, safety and fundamental rights under Articles 33 and 34 of that Regulation?
3. What is the Commission doing to guarantee and promote encrypted communications within the EU, which are increasingly under pressure?

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¹ <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/encrypted-direct-messages>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_2413.