

**Question for written answer E-001618/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jeroen Lenaers

on behalf of the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware

Subject: EU participation in the Summit for Democracy

From 29 to 30 March 2023, US President Joe Biden co-hosted the second Summit for Democracy with the governments of Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Zambia. The summit assembled world leaders in a virtual, plenary format, which was followed by gatherings in each co-host capital with representatives from government, civil society and the private sector.

One of the topics discussed was the threat posed by the misuse of commercial spyware. A joint statement on efforts to counter the proliferation and misuse of commercial spyware was released by the governments of Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The EU was not involved in the discussions on this important topic and was not party to the joint statement despite the ongoing work of the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware.

1. What is the Commission's opinion in this regard?
2. Why was the EU not involved?
3. Has the Commission taken any active steps to participate in this initiative or is it considering doing so?

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