

**Question for written answer E-000955/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sergio Berlato (ECR)

Subject: Censorship of MEP Sergio Berlato's YouTube channel

On 14 March 2024, YouTube made a unilateral decision to remove a video on MEP Sergio Berlato's channel. The video in question documented the event 'Pretendiamo Verità e Giustizia' ('Pretend truth and justice') held in Bassano del Grappa (VI) on 9 March 2024, which was attended by 2 500 people and internationally renowned speakers, including doctors, scientists, journalists, committee representatives and MEPs. The platform justified the decision by saying: 'Our team has reviewed your content and, unfortunately, we think it violates our medical misinformation policy'. Given that there was no misinformation shared at this event but rather only evidence of what happened during the so-called COVID-19 pandemic, YouTube's censorship is discriminatory and unfounded.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider it appropriate to outsource the role of censoring the opinions of scientists, doctors, publishers, politicians, victims and citizens to web giants, operating, outside the framework of national and international legislation, on the basis of 'community standards' set behind closed doors?
2. Does it believe that web giants are neutral in their mediation of the content published on their platforms?

Submitted: 26.3.2024