

**Question for written answer E-000981/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tom Vandendriessche (ID)**

**Subject:** Investigation into censorship practices and foreign interference in elections on social media platforms

Tom Vandendriessche is a member of the Flemish opposition party, Vlaams Belang, which, according to polls, is the largest party in both Flanders and Belgium. His Facebook page has 235 000 followers and he had a reach of 150 000 people by mail. Tom Vandendriessche still reaches some 3000 people on Facebook. The issue here is the shadowbanning that has been going on for some time, and which prevents him from communicating adequately with his constituents.

The fact that a foreign company can exert such influence over European elections should be of great concern to us. With this practice of shadowbanning, Facebook is curtailing free speech, freedom of information and the need for fair elections in a democratic society. The following questions thus arise:

1. Is the Commission aware of shadowbanning practices targetting politicians on social media platforms?
2. Does the Commission consider that such practices constitute unauthorised foreign interference in the democratic process?
3. How does the Commission intend to stop and prevent such heavy-handed foreign interference?

Submitted:2.4.2024