

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6439/08  
by András Gyürk (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Security of the data of European internet users

We consider the security of processing of internet data to be an extremely important issue, as is its European regulation. In our view, it is cause for concern from the point of view of data protection that, despite legislation, users can neither inspect the data gathered concerning them nor delete them or have them deleted. The question justifiably arises as to how it is possible to monitor whether users' personal data have been deleted or rendered unidentifiable. The existing legal provisions prohibiting trading in data concerning internet users have not proved effective, as in practice it has repeatedly been found that they can be evaded. It is worrying that the European law in force does not comprise adequate guarantees that users' data will be protected. We consider that it is completely impossible to ascertain or monitor who stores what data on internet users, for how long and for what purpose, as well as how they process the data.

Does the Commission consider European internet users' data to be secure? Is the Commission aware of abuses relating to citizens' internet profiles? Ought the law governing this field to be reviewed?