

**Question for written answer P-004886/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lorenzo Cesa (PPE)**

Subject: Rules and regulations governing data protection - changes to laws in the USA

The United States recently altered its rules and regulations governing data protection at national level, splitting the power of oversight between two authorities – the Federal Trade Committee (FTC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – and citing the desire to strengthen oversight and hence consumer protection as its reason for this decision.

In the ongoing negotiations between the Commission and the FTC on the review of the Safe Harbour data protection agreement, called into question by the European Court of Justice judgment that has suspended EU-US data protection agreements, the United States has insisted that its legislative framework as applied by the Federal Trade Committee (FTC) is 'essentially equivalent', whereas in reality there is a doubling up of monitoring authorities.

- In Commission's opinion, how does this change to the US's oversight structure affect the ongoing negotiations?
- Does this change to its law indicate that the US Government needs to step up its level of data protection in order to comply with that of the EU?