

**Priority question for written answer P-001528/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sophia in 't Veld (Renew)

Subject: The Commission's deal with UK firm British Telecom and the protection of EU data

On 7 April 2022, it was revealed that the Commission had awarded British Telecom (BT) an EUR 1.2 billion contract for the management of the Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations (TESTA), a network intended to preserve the confidentiality of communications between EU institutions, agencies and bodies¹.

In 2018, the European Court of Human Rights concluded that the UK authorities had unlawfully shared data with other global partners and had violated the right to privacy in its mass surveillance programme².

A recent report from the European Court of Auditors concluded that the cyber preparedness of EU institutions, bodies and agencies is not commensurate with the threats to which they are exposed³.

1. Does the Commission believe its choice to award to a third country company the management of the network to preserve such sensitive EU data is compatible with its ambitions for 'strategic autonomy'? If so, why?
2. What exact legal safeguards has the Commission included in its deal with BT that prevent access to EU data by UK authorities and other jurisdictions outside the UK, for example via a third country court order or subpoena?
3. Did the Commission consult the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) about the UK's espionage track record before concluding its deal with BT? If so, has the Commission included the EDPS advice in the deal? If not, why not?

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/outrage-eu-deal-uk-bt-confidential-network/>

² [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press#%7B%22itemid%22:\[%22003-6187848-8026299%22\]%7D](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press#%7B%22itemid%22:[%22003-6187848-8026299%22]%7D)

³ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=60922>