

**Priority question for written answer P-002961/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Adequacy of India's data privacy law with regard to EU GDPR standards

Parliament passed a recommendation on EU-India relations in 2021¹, which included a recommendation for the EU to support India in its data privacy law endeavours. This recommendation reflects the growing importance of data protection and privacy in today's digital world and highlights the need for collaboration between the EU and India in this area.

India has recently enacted a comprehensive data privacy law that will dictate how tech companies process users' data, amid criticism that it will likely lead to increased surveillance by the government. It is therefore crucial that the Commission assess this law's adequacy with regard to data protection standards.

1. Given the interference of Indian intelligence services through digital surveillance and the Indian Parliament's apparent lack of control over the intelligence services' actions, does the Commission consider Indian data privacy law to be adequate and compliant with GDPR² adequacy standards?
2. Is the Commission willing to take a bilateral route with India on a data adequacy decision, as it previously did when adequacy requirements were not met? What safeguards are proposed?

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¹ European Parliament recommendation of 29 April 2021 to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy concerning EU-India relations (OJ C 506, 15.12.2021, p. 109).

² Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).