

**Question for written answer E-015597/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marlene Mizzi (S&D)

Subject: Nigeria's bill to muzzle free speech on social media

During the first week of December 2015, Nigeria's senators moved a bill designed to muzzle free speech on social media one step closer to becoming law. According to the Human Rights Watch, if passed into law, it will restrict freedom of expression and a free press, which are protected by Section 39 of Nigeria's constitution.

Can the Commission clarify whether the European Union is going to react to this bill, which is designed to muzzle free speech on social media in Nigeria?

Does the Commission agree that Nigeria's Government should focus on the critical issues facing the country, such as the Boko Haram insurgency, communal violence, corruption, and impunity for crimes by Nigerian's own security forces, rather than trying to muzzle non-violent expressions of genuine dissent and criticism?