Question for written answer E-015842/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Attempted abuse of investigative authorities in Slovenia

In an action carried out this morning, the Slovenian police sought to seize all the data on the server of the largest opposition party in Slovenia, the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS).

The aim was apparently to seize computers and all correspondence between the party and its more than 30 000 members in search of evidence of alleged crimes committed by the leadership of the DUTB, and in particular by Andrej Šircelj, an SDS member of parliament and head of the parliamentary committee on supervision of the budget and public finances. This is an outrageous interference in the private affairs of the party, its members and Mr Andrej Šircelj himself.

It is an outrage for the Government to employ such tactics against the largest opposition party. After the judicial farce of the Patria case, which saw SDS leader Janez Janša unjustly imprisoned for some time, and the unconstitutional withdrawal of the parliamentary mandate of the leader of the opposition, this is the next step in what appears to be a war being waged against the Slovenian opposition.

A number of constitutional lawyers see these actions as clearly unconstitutional – a violation of constitutional criminal procedural law – because they give permission for interference in all the party's electronic data.

In the light of its communication on a new EU framework to strengthen the rule of law (COM(2014)0158) and of the principle of mutual recognition (Article 82 TFEU), and taking into account the general situation in the Slovenian judiciary as well as Article 2(7) TEU, can the Commission state whether it intends to follow up the case outlined above, and, if so, how?

1082003.EN PE 574.061