

**Question for written answer E-014850/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Privacy of EU Facebook users

On 9 November 2015 a Belgian court ordered Facebook to stop tracking non-members in the country without their consent¹. In June the Belgian Privacy Commission brought a case against Facebook on the grounds that non-members that connected to websites that have links to the social network through its 'like' button had data collected on their online activities through the use of a 'datr cookie'. The court stated that Facebook did not have individuals' consent to gather information. Furthermore, it stated that Europe's national privacy authorities had the right to intervene if they believed their citizens' data to be at risk when companies move information outside national borders.

Which measures is the Commission planning to take vis-à-vis Facebook to ensure that EU citizens' privacy is adequately safeguarded, taking into account the preliminary ruling of the European Court of Justice in Case C 362/14?

Will the Commission take steps to prohibit the use in the EU of 'datr cookies' or 'cookies' of equivalent effect?

To which extent does the Commission agree that any transfer of data of Facebook's European subscribers to the United States should be suspended on the grounds that that country does not afford an adequate level of protection of personal data?

¹ See <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-34765937>.