Question for written answer E-004636/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: EU funding of companies linked to spyware and illegal surveillance

In responses to written questions from the Budgetary Control Committee, the Commission acknowledged that EU funds have financed companies involved in the development of spyware.

Among the beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 and the European Investment Fund is Paragon Solutions, the parent company of the invasive spyware software Graphite, sold only to ‘allied’ and ‘democratic’ governments.

According to Meta, Graphite has been at the centre of a scandal involving the surveillance of journalists in 17 different European countries.

It is crucial to clearly distinguish between the legitimate use of such technologies for national security, where there are genuine threats to public safety, such as terrorism or organised crime, and its abusive use to target journalists or to hamper investigations.

The latter represents a misuse that is incompatible with the founding values of the EU.

Therefore:

1. What ex ante and ex post checks were carried out regarding the funding of Paragon Solutions?

2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the ‘national security’ clause is not used to spy on or intimidate journalists?

3. Which European authorities oversee the legality of such practices, particularly in the absence of responses from the Member States concerned?

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