

**Question for written answer E-001020/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Hannah Neumann (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Internet shutdowns in Iran during regional conflict and implications for EU digital and human rights policy

Internet blackouts have become a recurring instrument used by the Iranian authorities during periods of unrest, protests, and now armed conflict. Such shutdowns isolate the population, prevent independent reporting and increase the risk that human rights violations will remain undocumented.

At the same time, the Iranian authorities continue to expand a state-controlled national information network that allows selective connectivity for regime actors while disconnecting the broader population from the global internet. Against this backdrop:

1. How does the Commission assess the current internet shutdown in Iran in terms of its impact on access to information, the protection of human rights and the ability of Iranian citizens to communicate with the outside world during the ongoing regional crisis?
2. What concrete measures is the Commission taking, together with the European External Action Service, to address internet shutdowns as a tool of repression in Iran, including through EU digital diplomacy, engagement with international partners and, where appropriate, the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime?
3. Does the Commission intend to expand EU support for circumvention tools and secure communications infrastructure and anti-censorship technologies that allow Iranian citizens to access the global internet during shutdowns, and has it engaged with major technology companies regarding the provision of secure communication channels, in-app proxy technologies or other emergency connectivity solutions?

Submitted: 11.3.2026