Question for written answer E-001208/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: ProtectEU: stronger security for Europeans or the policing of ideas and democratic dissent?

The Commission's new internal security strategy, ProtectEU[1], aims to strengthen the EU's capacity to address terrorism, organised crime, cyber-threats and hybrid attacks. Key measures include enhanced intelligence-sharing, expanded data access, stronger powers for EU agencies such as Europol, and a 'whole-of-society' approach integrating security considerations across EU legislation and policy.

While the objective of protecting citizens is legitimate, these measures raise serious questions regarding proportionality, political neutrality and the protection of fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, political participation and lawful assembly. Security policies must remain focused on criminal activity and genuine threats, without encroaching on lawful civic participation or political dissent.

1. How does the Commission ensure that ProtectEU measures focus exclusively on criminal behaviour and genuine threats, without infringing on citizens' rights to freedom of expression, political participation and lawful assembly, as guaranteed under Articles 11, 12 and 52 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

2. What concrete legal safeguards and oversight mechanisms will the Commission implement to ensure that enhanced intelligence-sharing, data access and other security measures are strictly proportionate, limited in scope and subject to independent judicial or parliamentary scrutiny?

3. How will the Commission prevent the 'whole-of-society' security approach from inadvertently involving or monitoring lawful civic activities, associations or online expressions of opinion, and how will transparency and accountability be ensured in such cases?

Supporter[2]

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[1] Commission communication of 1 April 2025 on ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy (COM(2025)148).
[2] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Christine Anderson (ESN).