

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001740/25
to the Commission**

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(30 April 2025)

Subject: Use of the Signal platform in diplomatic communications

In the light of reports by qualified news sources, it appears that the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of some Member States use the Signal encrypted messaging platform for informal institutional communications. The European External Action Service (EEAS) has confirmed this, invoking operational confidentiality requirements.

This situation raises concerns about compliance with Article 5(1)(a), (b) and (f) and Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and with the guidelines of the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) on protecting institutional communications.

In view of this, can the VP/HR answer the following questions:

1. Was the use of the Signal platform preceded by a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) and by security audits as required by current EU legislation?
2. What technical and organisation measures have been taken to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the diplomatic communications, to prevent the risk of compromise arising from informal use?
3. Do they intend to issue cogent guidelines within the EEAS for the use of digital tools by institutional leaders, to avoid the improper dissemination of strategic information due to procedural or organisational failures?

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2025)

The High Representative/Vice-President, Members of her Cabinet and members of staff may use instant messaging tools on their corporate devices for informal communication purposes.

A data protection impact assessment is required only if there is a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons in accordance with Article 39(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 ⁽¹⁾. This is not the case when Signal is used, given that the scope of personal information shared via Signal is limited.

The European External Action Service and the Commission have already issued guidelines on the use of instant messaging and group chat tools.

Use of publicly available non-corporate tools is limited to the exceptional cases when corporate solutions cannot be used. The guidelines stipulate that only non-confidential information should be shared and discussed when using, for example, Signal.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj/eng>.