

Sophie in 't Veld

Strasbourg, 15 April 2019

Dear President Tajani, dear Mr Welle,

On 17 March, a study by Danish company CookieBot revealed that 89% of government and 52% of public health websites of the Member States contain commercial advertisement trackers. With these trackers, companies can track citizens' online behaviour, location data and devices.<sup>1</sup>

Following my questions to the Council and the European Data Protection Board, I was notified that also the European Parliament application 'Citizens' App' contains commercial trackers, namely by Facebook and Google.<sup>2</sup>

Considering the importance of free information for citizens to the activities of the European Parliament, without being tracked, and especially in the context of the soon upcoming European elections, I would like to ask the following questions:

- Are you aware of the fact that Facebook and Google can track users of the official European Parliament Citizens' App?
- Do you agree that an official application of an EU institution should not allow any third party to track users?
- Do you consider it desirable that Facebook and Google can have access to users' personal data via this application, especially after the recent abuse of personal data in the Facebook/Cambridge Analytica scandal?
- Will you make sure that the application is modified in such a way that citizens will not be tracked anymore when they look up information on the European Parliament's activities?

I would highly appreciate a prompt answer and action.

Kind regards,

Sophie in 't Veld

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cookiebot.com/en/hidden-tracking-of-citizens-on-eu-government-and-health-sector-websites/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://reports.exodus-privacy.eu.org/en/reports/61926/>