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To: WELLE Klaus <klaus.welle@europarl.europa.eu>

Cc: European Data Protection Supervisor <EDPS@edps.europa.eu>; MEPs-9th-Legislature <MEPs-9th-Legislature@europarl.europa.eu>; Parlement Européen <DL-ParlementEuropeen@europarl.europa.eu>

Subject: Facial recognition in Parliament?

Dear Mr Welle,

Today I learnt that DG ITEC is developing facial recognition “*in the context of biometric based security and services to Members*”, as part of a project “[Artificial Intelligence for better services](#)”, in the Strategic Execution Framework 2019-2021 Digital Transformation Programme.

According to the description of the project, facial recognition has “*already proven being the source of radical transformation in organisations and benefit from an inter-institutional cooperation*”, and application of this technology would “*have consequences on working methods, processes, staff profiles and the contracting of services*”.

- Can you explain in which way Members and their assistants can benefit from “*biometric based security and services*”? What is exactly meant by this?
- Can you explain which “*radical transformation*” in the Parliament and which “*benefit from an inter-institutional cooperation*” you envisage?
- Does the Secretary General consider this project to be in line with the GDPR and Regulation 2018/1725? Why has the Secretariat General approved this project and grouped it into the nine strategic programmes of the Strategic Execution Framework? Can you explain why exactly facial recognition in the Parliament is strategic and should be developed?
- Has a fundamental rights impact assessment been executed? If so, what were the conclusions of this impact assessment? If not, why not?
- Have the data protection officer of the Secretariat General and the EDPS been consulted before this project was approved? If so, what were their views? If not, why not?
- Can you indicate what the costs of this project are? Are there external partners assisting DG ITEC in this project? If so, how much money do they receive from Parliament?

Furthermore, herewith I file an official access to documents request pursuant to Regulation 1049/2001, to get access to all documents related to this project.

Kind regards,

Sophie in 't Veld

