

**Question for written answer E-000961/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (The Left)

Subject: Worldcoin collecting biometric data

In the last few months, Worldcoin has been collecting the biometric data of over 4.5 million people in 120 countries, offering cryptocurrency as payment. It is estimated that the company took iris scans of 300 000 people in Portugal – including minors – until the Portuguese Data Collection Authority temporarily suspended Worldcoin's activities. In a statement, Worldcoin insisted it was 'fully compliant with all laws and regulations governing the collection and transfer of biometric data'. An investigation by MIT revealed that employees at Orb were collecting excessive data without providing details that are necessary for informed consent. Biometric data systems are considered 'high risk' in the AI Act because iris scans can be used to identify individuals much more reliably than fingerprints. Therefore, commercial entities with unclear intentions should not be allowed to use such systems. What is more, Worldcoin is breaching GDPR by failing to provide sufficient information before data is collected, allow participants to withdraw their consent, or explain if or how data is deleted later.

1. Is the Commission aware of Worldcoin's activities?
2. If there is sufficient proof that an EU law has been breached, will the Commission demand that databases created illegally be destroyed?

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