

**Question for written answer P-000913/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Commission statement calling peaceful protesters a 'mob'

On 14 February 2019 a blog post entitled 'The Copyright Directive: how the mob [sic!] was told to save the dragon and slay the knight' was published by the Commission via its official Medium account. By publishing and sharing this on Twitter, the Commission equated peacefully demonstrating European citizens with a mob. This absolutely has to be rejected. We call on the Commission to ensure that its official published statements are carefully drafted so that they do not appear to be directed against engaged citizens exercising their democratic rights.

After much public criticism, the post was deleted with an indication that the text had been misinterpreted. In addition, the Commission published an apology on 18 February, acknowledging that the language and title were not appropriate.

1. Who authorised the publication of such a post, in which European citizens exercising their democratic right to protest are called a 'mob', and its sharing on the official Twitter account?
2. How will the Commission make sure that such a disrespectful tone towards European citizens will never again be used in its publications?
3. How will the Commission guarantee that its official publications are not biased and always describe European policies in a neutral way without any judgment?