

Lawmakers quiz European Parliament's president on facial recognition cameras

by [Gian Volpicelli](#), [Clothilde Goujard](#) • 19 HOURS AGO • 2 MINUTES READ

A cross-party group of 37 MEPs has penned a letter asking European Parliament President Roberta Metsola to address reports that Parliament sought to buy and install surveillance cameras equipped with facial-recognition capabilities.

In the letter, dated February 7 and [obtained](#) by POLITICO, the lawmakers ask why Parliament had, in a 2015 tender, called for CCTV cameras capable of "detection/recognition of humans/faces." The letter also asks whether such cameras were purchased and deployed in Parliament and, if so, which manufacturer and software developer provided the technologies, singling out Chinese company Hikvision.

The tender was dug up by human rights nonprofit the Irish Council for Civil Liberties last month and reported on by [POLITICO](#).

"Indiscriminate bulk processing of personal data has consistently been annulled by the European Court of Justice due to its non-compliance with fundamental rights," the letter reads. The list of signatories includes MEPs involved in ongoing parliamentary work on the [Artificial Intelligence Act](#), which would impose substantial restrictions on the use of facial recognition for security purposes.

Answering POLITICO's questions back in January, a European Parliament spokesperson said that the institution "does not use any facial-recognition technology through its CCTV system." In their letter, the lawmakers say the denial does not address substantial questions raised by the documents.