

**Question for written answer E-003258/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Apple AirTags and other location tracking devices being used for stalking women and gender-based violence

Apple's AirTags and other similar types of tracking device have reportedly been used for tracking and stalking women¹. Although these tracking devices are often placed on the market for keeping track of objects, they can easily be misused to track the location of people, especially women, and are increasingly being used for this purpose. While Apple has a mechanism to alert iPhone users if an unknown device has been following them, this only works for users of Apple devices. Stalking is a criminal offence in many Member States, can be life threatening and a huge danger to individuals' health, safety and fundamental rights. According to Article 8 of the proposed directive against gender-based violence, such behaviour should be criminalised in the entire Union.

1. Is the Commission researching the dangers of the abusive misuse of these tracking devices in a way that endangers individuals' health and safety and violates their fundamental rights?
2. What safety measures should companies placing tags or tracking devices on the market take to ensure these can be sold and used safely, in particular in a way that guarantees the safety of women and other individuals?
3. Is the Commission working on binding measures to ensure these products are safe and cannot be misused for tracking and stalking individuals and gender-based violence in the EU?

¹ <https://www.bnnvara.nl/joop/artikelen/stalker-volgt-vrouw-met-apple-airtag>; <https://www.heute.at/s/es-war-beaengstigend-frau-mit-apple-airtag-verfolgt-100180762>; <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-60004257>