



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chairman

Sir Iain Lobban,
Director of Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)
United Kingdom

Subject: *Hearing of 3rd October of LIBE Committee Inquiry on Electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens*

Dear Sir Lobban,

As you are probably aware, the European Parliament, in its Resolution of 4 July 2013, instructed the LIBE Committee to conduct an inquiry on US NSA surveillance programmes, surveillance bodies in various Member States and their impact on EU citizens' privacy and to report its findings to the plenary of the European Parliament by the end of 2013.

The LIBE Committee will organise on 3 October 2013 a hearing that will focus on the possible "hacking" by intelligence services into the Belgacom systems, as indicated in recent news reports.

I would like to invite you to attend the Hearing and address the Committee. I will also invite representative from the Belgacom, as well as the relevant Belgian DPA to take part in this debate.

The participation to this LIBE Committee inquiry should be considered as a priority for all EU institutions, bodies and Member States in order to enlighten EU citizens as to the scope and impact of mass surveillance programmes.

The hearing will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels from 15h00-18h30. The LIBE Secretariat would be happy to try to find the most suitable timing for your participation in order to accommodate as much as possible your diary on that day. Should it prove difficult for you to attend the hearing in person, your participation by way of videoconference would be highly appreciated.

We are fully aware of the short deadline, but the allegations just appeared very recently and the Inquiry has to be concluded at the end of year.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR

CC: Sir Jon Cunliffe, the UK's Permanent Representative to the EU, The United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union