



Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
The Chairman

Mr Ivo OPSTELTEN,  
Minister of Security and Justice  
THE NETHERLANDS

**Subject:** *Hearing of 24th September of LIBE Committee Inquiry on Electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens*

Dear Mr. Opstelten,

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 24 September 2013 a hearing that will *inter alia* focus on the possible NSA tapping into the SWIFT data used in the TFTP programme, as indicated in recent news reports, and the consequences this might have on the current EU-US TFTP Agreement.

Since the SWIFT server is located in the Netherlands, I would like to invite you to attend the LIBE Committee inquiry on 24 September 2013. Commissioner Malmström, Director of Europol and a representative from SWIFT are taking part in this hearing. Your colleague, Minister of Interior Plasterk is also invited to participate.

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 9.00-11.30 and 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: Permanent representative ambassador Pieter de Gooijer, Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the EU