

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
The Chairman  
IPOL-COM-LIBE D (2013) 54122

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318122 29.10.2013

By e-mail:  
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**Subject: *European Parliament LIBE Committee Inquiry on Electronic Mass Surveillance of EU citizens***

Dear Mr Stone,

I am writing to you in my capacity of Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE committee).

In the wake of concerns regarding the surveillance programmes, both in the US and in some EU Member States, the LIBE committee has been entrusted, by the resolution of the Parliament of July 4th 2013 on the US National Security Agency surveillance programme, surveillance bodies in various Member States and their impact on EU citizens' privacy<sup>1</sup>, with conducting an in-depth inquiry into the matter. The purpose of the inquiry is to establish facts about the surveillance programmes reported by the press, especially as regards their existence, scope, legality, proportionality, involvement of EU Member States national authorities and oversight of EU citizens, compliance with the EU data protection and privacy rules, as well as the correct balance between privacy and security.

It is my intention to make this inquiry one of the main public fora in Europe for debating the impact of surveillance programmes on citizens, whether they operate from the USA or from EU national Member States.

The first meeting of this inquiry took place on 10 July 2013. Several more meetings are being organised between October-December 2013 to obtain feedback from relevant stakeholders and authorities.

<sup>1</sup> P7\_TA-PROV(2013)0322; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2013-0322+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

According to the information published by media, several European telecommunication providers would have been involved since they would have been requested to grant access to their customers' data to EU national security authorities or to cooperate with them in order to enable national security services to acquire communications' information conveyed by telecommunication companies. Your company would have been one of the companies having been involved in it.


In the context of this inquiry the LIBE Committee is organising a hearing on 7 and 11 November 2013 in which the participation of EU telecommunication companies in programmes for electronic mass surveillance of electronic communication will be addressed. Indeed the LIBE Committee considers essential to hear these companies in order to have adequate insight of the facts and to identify the different questions raised.

Due to your involvement in the topic we would like to request your kind participation as a speaker on **7 or 11 November (afternoon)** in order to exchange views. Each speaker will be asked to provide a public presentation to Members of the European Parliament as regards the above mentioned issue (ca. 10-12 minutes), followed by question-time by EP Members.

The secretariat of the LIBE Committee remains at your disposal to arrange for your participation in this inquiry in the best possible circumstances<sup>2</sup>.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



**Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR**

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<sup>2</sup> Libe-secretariat@ep.europa.eu