

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0692/04  
by Marco Cappato (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Invasion of privacy at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

According to information obtained from the Commission, it would appear that at the 10-12 December 2003 Geneva World Summit on the Information Society, badges fitted with radio-frequency microchips (RFID technology) were used in order to control access to certain restricted areas.

In its reply to question P-4002/03<sup>1</sup> the Commission (in the person of Mr Liikanen, Commissioner) states that it will undertake 'to obtain further information in order to ascertain whether (and, if so, how) RFID-based applications were used in connection with personal data transferred from the European Union, with a view to assessing the legitimacy - in the light of Community law - of the way in which the data were processed.'

Has the Commission pursued its investigations and, if so, what further information has it obtained concerning the use of RFID technology by the organisers of the WSIS and the Swiss Government?

Has the Commission launched a study into the legitimacy - in the light of Community law - of the way in which the WSIS organisers processed the data?

What information does the Commission hold concerning the transfer to third countries of the data gathered in the course of the WSIS, with particular reference to the fact that the second stage of the WSIS will be held in Tunisia in November 2005?

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ C