

**Question for written answer E-006737/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE)**

Subject: The 'Prism' programme

It is now known that the 'Prism' programme gives the US National Security Agency (NSA) access to the servers of American internet companies such as Google, Apple, Microsoft, Skype, Yahoo and Facebook. The NSA can thus monitor emails, video chats, instant messages, stored data, etc. in order to track terrorists.

American companies that seek access to the private data of EU citizens may well promise to keep them safe, but the rules say nothing regarding surveillance by the US authorities.

It is written in black and white that complaints by EU citizens against US organisations must be heard (and then only to a limited extent) in the USA.

According to *The Guardian* newspaper which, along with the *Washington Post*, has been behind the revelations, this probably means that the NSA's political licence to spy will trump any complaint from the EU.

Can the Commission confirm or refute this hypothesis?

In the same vein, can the Commission state if it is the national legal system or foreign judicial authorities that decide whether someone can monitor what the internet is being used for?

What does the Commission think the EU should/can do to tackle this issue of US monitoring of EU citizens? Should we have a voluntary code, more legislation or a totally different third option?