

ORAL QUESTION O-0049/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Wiersma and Gerhard Schmid, on behalf of the PSE Group, Colette Flesch, on behalf of the ELDR Group

to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of the European Parliament's resolution of 5 September 2001 on the interception of private and commercial communications

On 5 September 2001, the European Parliament has adopted a resolution on the interception of private and commercial communications<sup>1</sup>, based on the report of its Temporary Committee on the ECHELON Interception system.

This resolution includes a large number of recommendations concerning measures to be taken to protect citizens and firms against the abuse and illegal use of interception of communications, the introduction and use of systems and techniques to protect privacy and the confidentiality of communications, and the introduction of measures against industrial espionage and the abuse of competitive intelligence.

The resolution also included recommendations concerning the scrutiny of the activities of secret services as well as recommendations concerning the establishment of joint and coordinated European intelligence activities.

The events of 11 September 2001 and the international efforts to combat terrorism have further emphasised the importance of the recommendations set out in Parliament's resolution.

1. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the proposals it has made during the last year for the implementation of the European Parliament's recommendation concerning the interception of private and commercial communications?
2. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the initiatives that have been taken to provide all European citizens throughout the Union with the same legal guarantees concerning the protection of privacy and the interception of their communications?
3. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the negotiations that have taken place with a view to the conclusion of international agreements, in particular with the United States, on the protection of its citizens and firms against the abuse and illegal use of interception of communications and on measures against industrial espionage and the abuse of competitive intelligence?
4. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the progress that has been made with the introduction and use of systems and techniques to protect privacy and the confidentiality of communications, with particular regard to the introduction and use of encryption technology?
5. Can the Commission inform the European Parliament about the progress it has made with the protection of its own communications systems, its own data-processing systems and its own documents not accessible to the public?

Tabled: 18.07.2002

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 72 E, 21.3.2002, p. 221.

Forwarded: 22.07.2002  
Deadline for reply: 29.07.2002