

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4002/03  
by Marco Cappato (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Violation of privacy at the World Summit on the Information Society

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) took place from 10 to 12 December 2003 at the Palaexpo in Geneva.

Three of the experts present - Alberto Escudero-Pascual (of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Stephane Koch (president of the Internet Society, Geneva) and George Danezis (a Cambridge University researcher) - have complained that the badges issued them on registration for the Summit contained radio frequency identification chips (RFID chips) enabling individual delegates' movements within the Palaexpo's different areas to be tracked.

It appears from the three experts' complaints that the use of such chips and the lack of a privacy policy on the part of the WSIS place it in breach of the EU privacy directive, of the UN guidelines on the use of personal files, and of Swiss law on personal data protection.

Was the Commission aware that the badges contained chips of this nature?

Will the Commission seek formal explanations from the organisers of the summit and the Swiss government, and will it call for the full and immediate deletion of the personal data thus illegally collected?