

## EP inquiry committee for Pegasus and other spyware launched

**On Tuesday, Parliament's new inquiry committee investigating the use of Pegasus and other spyware had its first meeting, electing a Chair and three Vice-Chairs.**

The new committee is tasked with investigating the use of Pegasus software and other equivalent spyware, and held its constitutive meeting on 19 April. Members elected the following MEPs to lead the committee's work:

- Chair: Jeroen Lenaers (EPP, NL)
- First Vice-Chair: Sándor Rónai (S&D, HU)
- Second Vice-Chair: Diana Riba i Giner (Greens/EFA, ES)
- Third Vice-Chair: Moritz Körner (Renew, DE)

In this first meeting, MEPs also heard from experts who outlined their research into Pegasus and other equivalent spyware:

- Forbidden Stories: Laurent Richard & Sandrine Rigaud
- Citizen Lab: John Scott-Railton & Bill Marczak
- Amnesty International: Donncha Ó Cearbhail & Likhita Banerji

You can re-watch the meeting on the [Parliament's multimedia centre](#).

### Quote

Newly-elected committee chair [Jeroen Lenaers \(EPP, NL\)](#) said: "We have seen many cases where innocent people such as journalists and lawyers have been targeted by spyware, and this is a huge problem for democracy and the rule of law. We will now gather information about the use of Pegasus and other equivalent software, and channel these findings into useful recommendations."

### Background

Following the alleged use of the Pegasus surveillance spyware against journalists, politicians, law enforcement officials, diplomats, lawyers, business people, civil society actors and other citizens, the European Parliament decided in March to establish a new committee of inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and other surveillance spyware, and whether this use has breached EU law and fundamental rights. The Committee is scheduled to submit a final report after 12 months.

### Further information

[EP Plenary debate on the surveillance of politicians, prosecutors, lawyers and journalists, and other persons and entities in EU Member States using cyber surveillance software \(15.02.2022\)](#)

[Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware](#)

### Contacts

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Janne OJAMO

Press Officer

☎ (+32) 2 284 12 50 (BXL)

📱 (+32) 470 89 21 92

✉ [janne.ojamo@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:janne.ojamo@europarl.europa.eu)

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