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The President

Ms Dalia Grybauskaitė
President of the Council of the European Union

312032 11.07.2013

c/o Mr Uwe Corsepius
Secretary-General
Council of the European Union
rue de la Loi 175
B - 1048 Brussels

Dear President Grybauskaitė,

In its resolution of 4 July, the European Parliament expressed serious concern over the PRISM programme and other such initiatives, since, should the information available up to now be confirmed, they risked seriously violating the fundamental rights of EU citizens and residents. It also strongly condemned any spying on EU representations as, subject to the allegations being confirmed, it would imply a serious violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, in addition to its potential impact on transatlantic relations. The Parliament therefore called for immediate clarification from the US authorities on the matter. Finally it demanded that the EU-US expert group be granted an appropriate level of security clearance and access to all relevant documents in order to be able to conduct its work properly and within a set deadline and demanded that Parliament be adequately represented in this expert group.

As you know, the EU-US working group on data protection and privacy which on the European Union is chaired by the Commission and the Council Presidency had its first meeting scheduled on 8 July. Furthermore, it was agreed that Member States would undertake consultations with the United States on certain intelligence matters.

I am writing to ask you how the Presidency envisages to involve and regularly update the Parliament on both strands of these ongoing discussions.

In that regard, I would like to inform you that the Parliament will undertake an in-depth inquiry on these matters within the framework of its Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and which will start on 10 July and report back by the end of this year.

It is of the utmost importance, not least for renewing trust in the transatlantic relationship and for the Union's ongoing legislative work, that we have clarity on these allegations and that appropriate political conclusions are drawn as part of a credible and accountable process. I am confident the Lithuanian Presidency will play an active role in achieving this.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Schulz