



Civil Liberties MEPs restart discussions on surveillance programmes and go to Washington in March

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The Chair of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee and rapporteur on the US NSA and EU member states' surveillance programmes, Claude Moraes (S&D, UK), presented his working document on the follow-up of the inquiry on electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens on Tuesday 24 February.

During the debate, MEPs stressed the need to address new developments since the adoption of [Parliament's resolution](#) on 12 March 2014 and called for a hearing on the hacking of Dutch company Gemalto by the NSA and the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

MEPs also recalled that the security of IT systems of EU institutions needs to be improved and that more should be done for the protection of whistleblowers. They also showed their commitment to carry on the committee work to ensure citizens' right to privacy. (*[You can follow the interventions of the MEPs during the debate on twitter @EP_Justice](#)*)

Delegation to Washington in March

A Civil Liberties delegation will go to Washington in mid-March. For Claude Moraes, "this trip serves as a great opportunity to continue talks with our US counterparts on key areas of justice and home affairs in EU-US relations. Members will have the chance to gauge the US priorities in light of the decision to vote against the NSA surveillance reform bills in the US Congress. This will provide crucial assistance for Members particularly bearing in mind the priorities of the Civil Liberties Committee concerning the strengthening of data protection standards in the EU, including a review of the Safe Harbour and Umbrella Agreement between the EU and US".

A resolution should also be voted in Parliament in the coming months.

Tweet to editors:

#Oscar Best Documentary @citizenfour mentions #EPinquiry on NSA surveillance. @EP_Justice discusses EP follow-up.

Links

- Working document on the Follow-up of the LIBE Inquiry on Electronic Mass Surveillance of EU Citizens: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/libe/dv/9_1046563/9_1046563en.pdf
- European Parliament resolution of 12 March 2014 on the US NSA surveillance programme, surveillance bodies in various Member States and their impact on EU citizens' fundamental rights and on transatlantic cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2014-0230&language=EN&ring=A7-2014-0139>
- Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html>

Press release

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