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Commission criminal justice and data plan "a dream come true for security fetishists"

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Reacting to the Commission's action plan on the Stockholm programme for the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice, German GUE/NGL MEP **Cornelia Ernst** said that "instead of more rights, liberties and security for people in the EU, the action plan contains further attacks on data protection and privacy" and called the document "a dream-come-true for all security fetishists".

The Commission is seeking to implement major changes to justice, security, asylum and immigration policies over the next five years. Ernst says that "with references to 'a proactive approach' to the fight against crime and terrorism as well as to the military supervision of migration flows, the action plan provides the working basis for countless extra data to be processed and runs counter to the protection of civil liberties and the right to informational self-determination."

Ernst fears that more and more areas of public and private life will be under groundless surveillance, that enormous amounts of data will be created, transmitted, and stored and that the separation of police and intelligence services will be further eroded.

"Rather than further increases in the volume of data to be processed and retained, I demand an evaluation and a revision of existing security policy, a comprehensive EU justice and home affairs acquis as well as an EU framework decision regarding the protection of personal data", Ernst said, criticising the ever closer coordination by Member State authorities seeking to criminalise migrants by "the development of a close-meshed supervision network with the use of military equipment".

Finally, Ernst accused Commissioner Reding of "acute insolence" for stating her desire to achieve better co-operation with Parliament and citizens on the implementation of the measures: "83 per cent of the measures, which were and will be submitted to Parliament in the area of civil liberties, justice and home affairs have been negotiated secretly between the Council and the Commission. The results of these opaque, undemocratic negotiations are then hurried through Parliament, presenting Citizens with a fait accompli." The GUE/NGL demands early and comprehensive inclusion of MEPs as well as citizen consultation in the framing of future legislation.