

PRESS RELEASE

'Are governments out of their depth with new communications and surveillance technology'

20 September 2012

The Centre for Irish & European Security (CIES) & Statewatch announces the following debate: 'Democratic institutions can no longer govern modern communications and surveillance technology.' Dublin 1st October 2012

Dublin— 17th September 2012 The Centre for Irish and European Security and the EU civil liberty watchdog group, Statewatch, are pleased to announce a debate on policymaker's capacity to legislate effectively in an era of enhanced communications and surveillance technology, on the 1st of October 2012, European Parliament Dublin.

World leading privacy and civil liberty advocates will take to the stage to assess the capacity of democratic institutions to govern modern communications and surveillance technology. Speakers include: □

Tony Bunyan is the founder and director of **Statewatch**, one of the EU's foremost civil liberties watchdog groups

Gus Hosein is the executive director of **Privacy International**, and has held visiting fellowship positions at Columbia University and the LSE

Ben Wizner is the Director of the Speech, Privacy & Technology Project at the **ACLU**, America's leading civil liberties group

The debate will include audience participation and the aim is to have an engaged and informative dialogue between all attendees. This is a unique opportunity to engage with some of the worlds leading privacy advocates and civil liberty campaigners, all of who have worked with policymakers across the world at various institutional levels.

The panel debate will begin at 19:00 in the European Parliament Office in Ireland, 43 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, with a drinks reception at 18:30.

-ENDS-

Notes for Media:

CIES (Centre for Irish and European Security): founded in 2008 is an independent research centre and consultancy based in Dublin, it combines over 30 years of experience, specializing in research and consultation advice in the field of civil security. Current research focus is directed towards the ethical implications and societal impact of security policy and security technology.

Statewatch UK: Statewatch is a non-profit-making voluntary group founded in 1991. It is comprised of lawyers, academics, journalists, researchers and community activists. Its European network of contributors is drawn from 18 countries. Statewatch encourages the publication of investigative journalism and critical research in Europe the fields of the state, justice and home affairs, civil liberties, accountability and openness.

www.statewatch.org

For further information or to arrange interviews with organisers or panel speakers please contact:

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