



*Lynn Boylan MEP
for Dublin*

Dublin MEP Lynn Boylan will be hosting an event highlighting police spying on activist groups in Europe, the event will be held on the 6th of September in the European Parliament at 3pm, and will feature activists who have been directly targeted by undercover police operations as well as experts in the area of state surveillance.

The purpose of the event is to highlight the coordination of undercover secret police activities targeting activists throughout Europe. The level of undercover activities targeting activist groups has come to light following the revelations about the "spycops", initially by revelations made by activists who had been targeted by British undercover officer Mark Kennedy. Kennedy is known to have operated in at least a dozen countries across Europe

"The organisations and activists targeted by these transnational undercover operations were peaceful protest movements. It is very worrying that European police forces feel that it is appropriate to waste police funds on targeting peaceful activist groups" Ms Boylan said

This event is an opportunity to highlight this issue at a European level. While policing is a matter for member states governments, the coordination of undercover activities between European states requires a coordinated response from those who defend the right to protest as a requirement for a healthy democracy.

One of the participants in this event, Jason Kirkpatrick, former Vice-Mayor of Arcata, California, and "Core Participant" in the UK Undercover Policing Inquiry described the lack of judicial oversight and the political nature of these undercover operations.

"When the state wants to tap someone's phone, usually a judge's permission is needed. But police agencies across Europe have found a trick to avoid all oversight and accountability by requesting the use of foreign undercover police to cross borders to act as political police. It has been admitted that UK secret police have been violating human rights across Europe, and the truth we have recently exposed is just the tip of the iceberg."

Confirmed speakers for this event include:

- Darragh Macken (Solicitor representing victims of state surveillance)
- Chris Jones (StateWatch)
- Eveline Lubbers (researcher, author of Secret Manoeuvres in the Dark, Corporate and Police Spying on Activists)
- Britta Eder (Solicitor representing victims of state surveillance)
- Jason Kirkpatrick (activist targeted by undercover operatives)
- Kate Wilson (activist targeted by undercover operatives)
- Birgitta Jonsdottir (Icelandic MP and activist targeted by undercover operatives)

For Further information contact brendan.oconchuir@europarl.europa.eu