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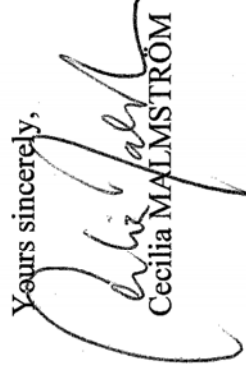
Dear Chairman,

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to discuss Russian Federation's request for passenger data in the LIBE committee. Unfortunately, I am not available on any of the dates you propose. I hope another opportunity will present itself in the near future.

The Commission services have had technical discussions with the Russian Ministry of Transport. These meetings helped us in understanding the Russian legislation with regard to PNR and allowed us to explain our significant concerns on this matter. One result was that the date of implementation of the legislation was postponed to 1 December 2013. In addition, the Russian Ministry of Transport explained in the latest meeting on 11 September that only passport (API) data will be requested on 1 December 2013. It furthermore clarified that such data will be requested for flights from, to and over the Russian Federation.

In the coming days, DG Home Affairs services will be in touch with the Secretariat of the LIBE Committee to agree in which way LIBE will be updated about further contacts between the Commission and the Russian Federation regarding passenger data, and about on-going negotiations of the EU-Russia Visa Facilitation Agreement.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

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