



What do we want?

We call on the European Commission to immediately initiate infringement procedures against the UK for having violated its obligations relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data under Article 16. As Guardian of the Treaties the Commission oversees the application of Union law and is obliged to act against any breach of European rules, including fundamental rights enshrined in the Treaties.

STOPWATCHING.EU



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STOP MASS SURVEILLANCE

British spy agency GCHQ reads your private correspondence

Society is under surveillance. But while CCTV and border controls are visible examples, most mass surveillance activities are happening hidden from the public eye.

Whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed that the British spy agency GCHQ has been tapping into fibre-optic cables to intercept, store and analyse vast amounts of data flowing across the web, including personal emails, posts on social media sites, video chats and calls, and records of what websites you are visiting. The data collected under the spying programme Tempora is shared between the UK, the NSA, and other agencies.

Who is affected?

Literally everyone: Citizens, private business, public administration. The GCHQ can intercept almost all worldwide online communications data as most of it flows through fibre-optic cables that pass through British territory.

What's wrong with Tempora?

We believe that in free societies, in Europe and elsewhere, the government has no right to spy on its population. The GCHQ collects massive amounts of data without the knowledge or consent of those monitored. Data analysed under the guise of security issues can easily be used for profiling people on the basis of race, religion, political opinion, sexual preferences etc. as well as for industrial espionage. All of this is, in fact, already happening today.

The British Tempora law allows for mass surveillance of people, companies and government agencies without initial suspicion or any other legal prerequisite.

Why the EU has to act now

As an EU member state the United Kingdom is bound by the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon. Article 16 TFEU states: "Everyone has the right to the protection of personal data concerning them". Hence, the legal basis for the Tempora programme is in blatant violation with the legal order of the EU as well as universal fundamental rights, applicable also in the UK. It is pivotal that the EU now proves it is able to safeguard compliance with its own rules and values. So far, political forces in Brussels have shown little willingness to take proper action against the systematic violation of fundamental rights by the UK.