

ARTICLE 29 Data Protection Working Party



Brussels, 7 June 2013

Vice President of the European
Commission
Mrs Reding
B - 1049 BRUSSELS
Belgium

Dear Mrs Reding,

According to several media, the personal data of consumers of nine big internet companies are allegedly used by US intelligence agencies for law enforcement purposes. Considering the impact this may have on data protection, especially of European citizens, I urgently request that you ask for clarifications from your counterparts in the United States of America about these allegations.

Could you in any case request clarification on whether the PRISM program is only aimed at data of citizens and residents of the United States or also, or perhaps only, to non-US citizens and residents, among them European citizens. Furthermore, could you please seek clarification on whether access to such data is strictly limited to specific and individual cases, based on a concrete suspicion, or if information is also accessed in bulk.

Considering the fundamental rights of European citizens might be at stake, I trust the European Commission will ensure the necessary clarification is provided.

Yours sincerely,

Jacob Kohnstamm
Chairman

This Working Party was set up under Article 29 of Directive 95/46/EC. It is an independent European advisory body on data protection and privacy. Its tasks are described in Article 30 of Directive 95/46/EC and Article 15 of Directive 2002/58/EC.

The secretariat is provided by Directorate C (Fundamental Rights and Union Citizenship) of the European Commission, Directorate General Justice, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium, Office No LX-46 01/190.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/privacy/index_en.htm