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VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JUSTICE, FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP

CECILIA MALMSTRÖM
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HOME AFFAIRS

Brussels, 19 June 2013

Dear Attorney General,

On Friday 14 June 2013 in Dublin we had a first discussion of programmes which appear to enable United States authorities to access and process, on a large scale, the personal data of European individuals. We reiterated our concerns about the consequences of these programmes for the fundamental rights of Europeans, while you gave initial indications regarding the situation under U.S. law.

At our meeting, you were not yet in a position to answer all the questions set out in the letter of 10 June 2013. Given the strength of feeling and public opinion on this side of the Atlantic, we should be grateful if you would communicate your answers to those questions as soon as possible. We are particularly concerned about the volume of data collected, the personal and material scope of the programmes and the extent of judicial oversight and redress available to Europeans.

In addition, we welcome your proposal to set up a high-level group of EU and U.S. data protection and security experts to discuss these issues further. On the EU side it will be chaired by the European Commission and include Member States' experts both from the field of data protection and security, including law enforcement and intelligence/anti-terrorism.

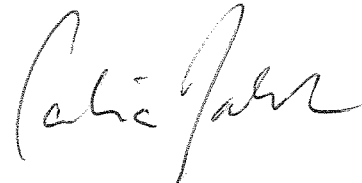
We suggest that we convene the initial meeting of this group in July. Our intention is to ensure that the European Commission will be in a position to report, on the basis of the findings of the group, to the European Parliament and to the Council of the EU in October.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Viviane Reding



Cecilia Malmström

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