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Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

24.06.2013

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you with regards the current reports on the surveillance of international electronic communications.

According to these reports the British Tempora project enables it to intercept, to collect and to store vast quantities of global email messages, face book posts, internet histories and calls for 30 days. They are supposed to be shared with NSA.

It is therefore quite understandable that this matter has caused a great deal of concern in Germany. Questions have been raised concerning the extent to which especially German citizens have been targeted.

In today's world, the new media form the cornerstone of a free exchange of views and information. The transparency of government action is of key significance in any democratic State and is a prerequisite for the rule of law. Parliamentary and judicial scrutiny are central features of a free and democratic State but cannot come to fruition if government measures are shrouded in secrecy.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could clarify the legal basis for these measures, whether concrete suspicions trigger these measures or all data retained without any concrete evidence of any wrong doing, whether judges have to authorize measures of this kind, how their application works in practice, which data are stored and whether German citizens are covered by measures of this kind.

I feel that these issues must be raised in an EU context on minister's level, e.g. in the framework of the forthcoming informal JAI Council mid July, and should be discussed in the context of the ongoing discussions on the EU Data Protection Regulation.

Yours sincerely,

J. Guller

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The Rt Hon Christopher Grayling PC
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ
United Kingdom

24.06.2013

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It is therefore quite understandable that this matter has caused a great deal of concern in Germany. Questions have been raised concerning the extent to which especially German citizens have been targeted. My Permanent Secretary Dr. Birgit Grundmann has expressed these concerns already to your Permanent Secretary Dame Ursula Brennan today in a phone call.

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