



Parlamentarische Arbeiten - Parliamentary Work - Travaux parlementaires

**EPP PUBLIC HEARING
on the
Pegasus spyware scandal and its impact on democracy in the EU**

Thursday, 10 February 2022

11.00-13.00

Room JAN 2Q2

Brussels

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

via videoconference

Interpretation: DE EN FR IT NL EL ES FI SV CS PL SK SL BG RO HR

Programme

- 11.00-11.10 Introductory remarks
Mr. Jeroen LENAERS, EPP Spokesperson in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- 11.10-11.20 Opening remarks
Mr. Andrzej HALICKI, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- Keynote addresses
- 11.20-11.30 **Mr. Laurent RICHARD** – Director of Forbidden Stories
Ms. Sandrine RIGAUD – Editor-in-chief of Forbidden Stories
- 11.30-11.40 **Mr. Roman GIERTYCH** – Lawyer
- 11.40-11.50 **Mr. Máté SZABÓ** – Director of Programs at Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
- 11.50-12.00 **Mr. Bill MARCZAK** - Citizen Lab, University of Toronto
- 12.00-12.50 **Questions & Answers**
- 12.50-13.00 Concluding remarks
Mr. Jeroen LENAERS, EPP Spokesperson in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs



Jeroen LENAERS
EPP Coordinator - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Jeroen Leaners is a Dutch politician, member of the European Parliament and a member of the Dutch Christian Democratic CDA party, affiliated with the European People's Party. He is active in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, next to the Budgets and Budgetary Control Committees. As the European Parliament's rapporteur, he has worked on many files, for example on the creation of the European Labour Authority. In 2020, he became his parliamentary group's coordinator on the committee and is the spokesperson for justice and home affairs. Since 2021, he has been a part of the Parliament's delegation on the Conference of the Future of Europe. He is also a member of the delegation to the parliamentary assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and at the delegation to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly. Mr. Lenaers holds a BA and a Master's degree in European Studies from the Maastricht University.



Andrzej HALICKI - VICE-CHAIR - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Andrzej Halicki is a Polish politician, Member of the European Parliament and a member of the Civic Platform, affiliated with the European People's Party (EPP). He is active in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Legal Affairs and Foreign Affairs Committees. Before joining the European Parliament, Halicki has been a member of Polish Sejm and served as Minister of Administration and Digitisation. In addition to his committee assignments, he is Head of the Polish EPP Delegation, serves as a Vice-Chair of the parliament's Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and a Member of the Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee. He is particularly active in the area of the rule of law, fundamental rights and digital affairs. Among others, Halicki represented the EPP in the negotiations of the newly established financing instrument supporting civil society organisations – the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme.



Laurent RICHARD

Laurent Richard is a journalist, documentary producer and director of the Forbidden Stories consortium. For more than 20 years, he has been conducting international investigations and major stories for television. In 2017, he set up Forbidden Stories, a global network of journalists whose mission is to pursue the investigations of reporters who have been murdered, imprisoned or threatened. Since its creation, Forbidden Stories has received numerous awards, including the prestigious European Press Prize, the Georges Polk Award and the RSF Impact Prize for the Pegasus Project, published in 2021. As a documentary producer, Laurent Richard has produced, among others, the series “Green Blood”, which won the Prix Europa for the best European documentary series in 2020. Investigations conducted by the Forbidden Stories have uncovered many issues crucial for the European public opinion, including related to the murder of investigative reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia, and the use of Pegasus surveillance against journalists.



Sandrine RIGAUD

Sandrine Rigaud is a French investigative journalist and Editor-in-chief of Forbidden Stories. Since 2019, she coordinated the “Pegasus Project” published in July 2021 and the “Cartel Project,” a massive cross-border collaboration to finish the investigations of a murdered Mexican journalist that won a George Polk Award and the Maria Moors Cabot Prize.

Before joining Forbidden Stories, she directed feature length documentaries for French television. Her films have been shortlisted or awarded in multiple festivals, including DIG, Europa, Fipadoc, FIGRA, SeoulEco. She has reported from Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Qatar and Bangladesh.

In 2008, she co-wrote a book on the war of the socialist tenors in France. Of Egyptian origin, she grew up in the Middle East where she still travels regularly.



Máté SZABÓ

Máté Szabó works as the Director of Programs at the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU, Budapest), where he is responsible for the supervision of strategic litigation cases before domestic and international courts. Previously he was the director of Eötvös Károly Policy Institute (Budapest, Hungary). He had also been a senior lecturer at the University of Miskolc's Department of Information and Media Law. Mr. Szabó is a lawyer specializing in the protection of fundamental freedoms and informational rights; he obtained his PhD degree at ELTE University (Budapest, Hungary) in 2011.



Roman GIERTYCH

Roman Giertych is an attorney. Among his clients were Donald Tusk, Radosław Sikorski, Ewa Kopacz, Anne Applebaum, the European Jewish Union. In 2019, while conducting numerous cases of D. Tusk, he was subject to surveillance by the Pegasus spyware program, as later confirmed by the Citizen Lab. In 2021, Polish Public Television repeatedly used materials stolen by Pegasus from Giertych's phone to attack him. Before opening his law firm, Mr. Giertych was a politician. In 2005-2006 he was the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Special Services and in 2006, he became deputy prime minister and minister of national education in the government of Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz. He held the same function in the government of Jarosław Kaczyński, with whom he parted ways in protest against the use of the Central Anticorruption Bureau for illegal surveillance of Deputy Prime Minister Andrzej Lepper.



Bill MARCZAK

Bill Marczak is a Senior Research Fellow at Citizen Lab, a co-founder of Bahrain Watch, and a Postdoctoral Researcher at UC Berkeley, where he received PhD in Computer Science. His work focuses on novel technological threats to Internet freedom, including new censorship and surveillance tools. His expertise is in Internet scanning and conducting digital investigations. Coverage of his work has been featured in Vanity Fair, the New York Times, the Washington Post, on CNN, and on Larry King.