

Brussels, 22 October 2026

To the Presidents of the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission

Subject: Urgent investigation into EU institutions' potential exposure to spyware

Dear Presidents,

We are writing to express our serious concerns about findings from the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab on the use of online advertising to deliver zero-click spyware, and to call for an urgent, coordinated investigation into the potential exposure of our institutions.

The [Citizen Lab's recent investigation](#) reveals how targeted online advertisements through Discover-Tech were used to deliver Candiru spyware through zero-click attacks, allowing devices to be infected without users clicking on an advertisement. The researchers also identified Discover-Tech ad impressions on networks belonging to the [European Parliament, the Commission and the Council's General Secretariat](#).

While these impressions do not establish that institutional devices were infected, they raise serious concerns about potential exposure to spyware and the security of sensitive communications. We cannot leave our democratic institutions vulnerable to such surveillance. The institutions concerned must urgently investigate their exposure and establish whether their devices, staff or Members were targeted or compromised.

We urgently request the European Parliament, Council and Commission to immediately:

- **Instruct the responsible services to investigate the extent of each institution's exposure:** This should include preserving and examining relevant network logs for relevant indicators, conducting forensic analysis of potentially affected devices, and establishing whether Members, officials or staff were targeted with spyware or tracking, whether infections occurred, and whether sensitive information was compromised.
- **Offer support to individuals affected:** Any affected individuals must be promptly informed and offered appropriate support.
- **Evaluate protective measures:** The institutions should also coordinate immediate protective measures and assess what further safeguards are needed to protect members and staff from the spectrum of threats delivered via targeted online ads, from tracking to spyware infection.
- **Inform the European Parliament** about the findings of the investigation and relevant measures taken, provide guidance to members and staff on the nature of the risk and how to mitigate risks.
- **Follow-up on European Parliament PEGA committee's recommendations:** ensure urgent follow up to the European Parliament's recommendations by establishing a binding legal framework strictly regulating the use of spyware, ensuring full transparency and accountability for victims, through an independent investigation and establishing a EU tech lab to support victims of spyware.

We would welcome a timely response outlining the steps taken, the timetable for the investigation and how its findings will be communicated to Parliament, while protecting affected individuals and sensitive operational information.

Yours sincerely,

1. **Hannah Neumann**, Greens/EFA
2. **Saskia Bricmont**, Greens/EFA
3. **Sandro Ruotolo**, S&D
4. **Raquel Garcia Hermida-van der Walle**, Renew
5. **Markéta Gregorová**, Greens/EFA
6. **Brando Benifei**, S&D
7. **Chloé Ridel**, S&D
8. **Dario Tamburrano**, The Left
9. **Daniel Freund**, Greens/EFA
10. **Cristina Guarda**, Greens/EFA
11. **Vladimir Prebilic**, Greens/EFA
12. **Per Clausen**, The Left
13. **Sara Matthieu**, Greens/EFA
14. **Jonas Sjöstedt**, Greens/EFA
15. **Veronika Ostrihonova**, Renew
16. **Villy Sovndal**, Greens/EFA
17. **Rasmus Nordqvist**, Greens/EFA
18. **Leonardo Orlando**, Greens/EFA
19. **Irena Jovena**, Renew
20. **Lukas Sieper**, Renew
21. **Maria Grapini**, S&D
22. **Barry Andrews**, Renew
23. **Lucia Yar**, Renew
24. **Leïla Chaibi**, The Left
25. **Marie Toussaint**, Greens/EFA
26. **David Cormand**, Greens/EFA
27. **Mounir Satouri**, Greens/EFA
28. **Lena Schilling**, Greens/EFA
29. **François Kalfon**, S&D
30. **Ana Miranda Paz**, Greens/EFA
31. **Marco Tarquinio**, The Left
32. **Giorgos Georgiou**, The Left
33. **Vlad Voiculescu**, Renew
34. **Tiemo Wölken**, S&D
35. **Emil Radev**, EPP