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To: European Data Protection Supervisor
<EDPS@edps.europa.eu>
Sent at: 10/08/21 11:27:11
Subject: Pegasus-gate

Honourable Mr Wojciech Wiewiórowski,

please find attached a letter regarding the Pegasus-gate.

All the best,

István Ujhelyi
MEP



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Mr Wojciech Wiewiórowski
European Data Protection Supervisor

10th August 2021, Budapest

Dear Mr Wiewiórowski,

First of all let me express my most sincere hope that this letter finds you and your family in good health.

The reason I am contacting you is that I would like to raise your attention to a certain matter in Hungary which I am confident that you have already heard about: **the Pegasus-gate**. According to the news, the Orbán-government has selected journalists, media owners and opposition political figures as potential targets for invasive Pegasus spyware.

(The Pegasus project is a collaborative journalistic investigation into the NSO Group and its clients. The company sells surveillance technology to governments worldwide. Its flagship product is Pegasus, spying software – or spyware – that targets iPhones and Android devices. Once a phone is infected, a Pegasus operator can secretly extract chats, photos, emails and location data, or activate microphones and cameras without a user knowing.)

Despite the uproar by opposition politicians and continuous attempts by independent reporters to paint a clearer picture, the government is practically silent. While other EU nations, such as France and Germany, initiated immediate investigations into the scandal, the Hungarian government is dismissing the issue and boycotting investigations.¹

Dear Mr Wiewiórowski, I am sure you understand how limited my tools as Hungarian opposition MEP are. Also, based on the above mentioned facts, turning with my request to the Hungarian National Authority to the Data Protection and Freedom of Information, which is led by a former Fidesz-advisor, is not a real option. Therefore, I am requesting the following from you and your mostly respected office:

1. Please, promote and support further cooperation among national Supervisory Authorities to catalyze the flow of information between them in order to achieve a transparent cross-European investigation in the matter.

¹ For more information, please read: <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/jul/28/call-for-hungarian-ministers-to-resign-in-wake-of-pegasus-revelations> or <https://hungarytoday.hu/pegasus-scandal-hungary-momentum/>



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2. Please, use your influence and position to help EDPB review the matter in their upcoming Annual report, contribute in evaluating the consequences and in providing general guidance to how to strengthen the protection of the data of the citizens and the protection of journalist's confidential sources.

Mr Wiewiórowski, thank you for your kind attention to this letter. I remain open for further communication on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

dr. István Ujhelyi
MSZP
Member of the European Parliament
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism