



News Online

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And see: **News Digest**: updated daily, dozens of news links every month:

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NEWS

1.EU: Council of the European Union: LIMITE documents: ["Countering Hybrid Threats", Connected Contested World, Foreign Fighters: Risk Indicators, Smart Borders, Migration and development and Discrimination Directive](#)

- [European External Action Service \(EEAS\): To: Political and Security Committee \(PSC\): Subject: Food-for-thought paper "Countering Hybrid Threats"](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8887-15, pdf)

*"Hybrid warfare can be more easily characterised than defined as a centrally designed and controlled use of various **covert and overt tactics, enacted by military and/or non-military means**, ranging from intelligence and cyber operations through economic pressure to the use of conventional forces.*

*By employing hybrid tactics, the attacker seeks to **undermine and destabilise an opponent by applying both coercive and subversive methods**. The latter can include various forms of sabotage, disruption of communications and other services including energy supplies. The aggressor may work through or by empowering proxy insurgent groups, or **disguising state-to-state aggression behind the mantle of a "humanitarian intervention"**." [emphasis added]*

The EEAS describes itself as a "virtual fusion cell" which *"could catalyse all indicators from the EEAS services, including EU Delegations and the COMMISSION services, and other key partners – both countries and organisations, such as NATO... The EEAS provides the natural focus for this intelligence led work.... By denying or distorting facts, populations can be easily manipulated, politicians dissuaded."*

- EEAS: [The EU in a Changing Global Environment - A more connected, contested and complex world](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8956-15, pdf)

"Europe too is more contested, as growing forces in Europe criticise, and at times oppose, the European project. Yet a more contested Europe can also spur decision-makers to better connect foreign policy with citizens' expectations and inject momentum in the European debate through generational change...."

Fragile states and ungoverned spaces are spreading. To the east, the EU's neighbours suffer from economic, political and energy fragilities. Across the Mediterranean, the spread of ungoverned spaces has enabled criminals, extremists and terrorists to thrive. Further south, instability and violence are the product of underdevelopment, lawlessness, corruption and conflict-ridden electoral politics - with more than 50 million people displaced."

- [Foreign Terrorist Fighters: - Application of the Schengen Border Code - Follow-up - Update on progress on the preparation of risk indicators](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8741-15, pdf)

"In the context of the Riga Joint Statement, Ministers concluded regarding Schengen framework as follows: We consider that beyond the current efforts to make full use of existing Schengen framework, a targeted proposal to amend the Schengen Borders Code is a necessary step to reinforce external borders by making it possible to proceed to systematic checks on individuals enjoying the right of free movement against databases relevant to the fight against terrorism based on the common risk indicators....."

There is currently no agreement among Member States as to the need of carrying out systematic checks on documents (only one carries out such checks and eleven have declared that they are ready to do so). Those which have concerns have invoked technical/practical/economic concerns."

See also: [Foreign Fighters: Application of the Schengen Border Code – Follow-up](#) (LIMITE doc no: 16880-14, pdf)

- Including SMART BORDERS: [Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee: Outcomes: Smart Borders Package, Biometric data in large IT databases in the area of borders, visa and asylum, Foreign Terrorist Fighters](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8964-15, pdf)

- EEAS: [Migration in development cooperation - Issues Paper](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9118-15, pdf)

"The answer to many of the challenges in the field of migration lies in the relations with third countries. Partnership with countries of origin and transit is thus crucial and the EU has established dedicated bilateral and regional migration dialogues with all of the most important regions concerned...."

EU efforts on fostering diaspora engagement is continuing, in particular on capacity building for government authorities and diaspora associations in developing appropriate policies and programmes to maximise the development contribution of their diaspora."

- [Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8679-15, pdf). Council developing its negotiating position - with 30 Member State positions.

2. EU: [Net neutrality in critical danger in Europe. The time to act is NOW!](#) (EDRI, link): *"Last week, the European Parliament finalised its second compromise proposal on net neutrality, and sent it to the Member States (represented in the Council of the European Union) and the European Commission. This will now allow the Council and Commission to put pressure on the Parliament to accept a final compromise this week. The new proposal is another major concession from the Parliament. It contains only the absolute minimum elements for net neutrality..."*

3. EU: European Parliament study: [Surveillance and censorship: The impact of technologies on human rights](#) (pdf):

"It concludes that different elements of EU strategic policy on human rights and digital policy need be better integrated and coordinated to ensure that technologies have a positive impact on human rights. The report concludes that EU should promote digital rights in national legislation of the third countries, but also in its own digital strategies."

4. EU: European Parliament study: [Towards more effective global humanitarian action: How the EU can contribute](#) (pdf):

"the EU and member states must commit to placing protection at the centre of humanitarian action and ensure that the EU's humanitarian aid is not regarded as a crisis management tool, and allowed to become an instrument of its foreign policy."

5. EU: European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS): [Trade agreements and data flows Joint hearing of the INTA and LIBE committees, European Parliament Brussels, 16 June 2015](#) [Giovanni Buttarelli European Data Protection Supervisor](#) (pdf):

"The concept of adequacy indeed reflects respect for third countries' cultural and legal traditions, while ensuring an acceptable level of respect for the protection of the individuals as guaranteed by EU law, even when their personal data leaves EU territory.... the LIBE Committee in its comprehensive 2014 inquiry into 'Electronic Mass Surveillance of EU Citizens', sounded a clarion call to the Commission and Member States to be much more vigilant in addressing vulnerabilities in existing means for international transfer of personal information, notably Safe Harbour."

6. EU: DATA PROTECTION REGULATION: [Issued by the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party Art. 29 WP opinion on the draft Regulation in view of the trilogue](#) (Press release, pdf), [Letter to the Council and the European Parliament](#) (pdf) and [Core topics in the view of trilogue](#) (24 pages, pdf)

*"even if the Directive should be regarded as minimum standard allowing the Member States to provide additional safeguards, an extension of its scope as proposed by the Council of the EU to all processing activities for the **"safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to public security"** - in addition to processing activities carried out for the **purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties** would result in a different level of protection depending on its implementation.*

Moreover, the notion of the prevention of threats to public security" not linked to the concept of criminal offences is quite vague and may open the door to including in it types of processing operations just because they are carried out by controllers that operate in the widest context of law enforcement.....

*[Recommendation] In order to ensure a consistent and high level of protection, the Working Party is of the opinion that the processing activities performed for purposes **not linked to the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties** should be clearly maintained under the scope of the Regulation."*

7. Essential viewing: [Building on communities of dissent](#) (Institute of Race Relations):

How do we build on communities of dissent, asks veteran Black activist A. Sivanandan in a short film released this week by Sage Publications alongside a [collection of his key writings in Race & Class](#). A Sivanandan, IRR Director Emeritus, is one of the UK's key thinkers on racism, imperialism, black identity and political struggle. His grounded theory has proved important both in the academy and the community for over four decades.

8. UK: [Will the government's counter-extremism programme criminalise dissent?](#) (IRR, link) Written by Arun Kundnani. The third of a post-election three-part series on civil liberties in the UK examines the government's new proposals to tackle extremism:

"From 1 July, a broad range of public bodies – from nursery schools to optometrists – will be legally obliged to participate in the government's Prevent policy to identify would-be extremists. Under the fast-tracked Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, schools, universities and health service providers can no longer opt out of monitoring students and patients for supposed radicalised behaviour. Never in peacetime Britain has national security surveillance been so deeply embedded in the normal functioning of public life."

9. EU: [Promoting Intra EU labour mobility of international protection beneficiaries](#) (pdf)

"The Meijers Committee proposes to enhance the opportunities for employment of international protection beneficiaries across the EU by allowing them to work in another Member State after two years of legal residency and under more favourable conditions than current EU directives allow. This incentive for achieving economic independence corrects the current legal regime under which

socioeconomic criteria play no role in sharing the responsibility for asylum-seekers and international protection beneficiaries"

10. EU Transparency and decision-making: [NON PAPER – April 2015: Denmark - Estonia - Finland – The Netherlands – Slovenia - Sweden: Enhancing transparency in the EU](#) (pdf)

"This paper mentions several steps that could be taken within the Council framework to enhance transparency, most importantly by focusing on active transparency, whereby the institutions pro-actively make their documents public and work in the most transparent manner."

11. [Court: Estonia website liable for readers' offensive online comments](#) (CoE, link):

"Judges ruled today that an Estonian commercially-run Internet news portal was liable for the offensive online comments of its readers. In its grand chamber judgment in the case of Delfi AS v. Estonia (application no. 64569/09), the European Court of Human Rights held, by 15 votes to two, that there had been:

no violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention on Human Rights. This was the first case in which the court had been called upon to examine a complaint about liability for user-generated comments on an Internet news portal."

12. Online book: [Integrating Immigrants in Europe: Research-Policy Dialogues](#): Editors: Peter Scholten, Han Entzinger, Rinus Penninx, Stijn Verbeek (link). [Download book](#) (pdf) includes the following Chapter: [Speaking Truth to Power? Why Civil Society, Beyond Academia, Remains Marginal in EU Migration Policy](#) (pdf) by Ann Singleton:

"Many migrants are excluded from much of society, let alone the migration debates, by citizenship laws, poverty, gendered social and economic injustice and institutional racism. They are structurally excluded and their lives are hidden from the priorities and gaze of the academic-policy nexus (notwithstanding some excellent qualitative research, social media and 'on the ground' campaigns). Those whose lives are directly affected by migration policy and practice, namely recent migrants, migrant groups, as well as the wider civil society, remain largely marginalised and their voices unheard in the policy discussions. It begs the question, what is academic research on migration for?"

13. [Intelligence, security and privacy: A Note by the Director](#) (Ditchley Park, link):

See: [Snowden leak: governments' hostile reaction fuelled public's distrust of spies - Leading figures in British and international intelligence and security community agree agencies need more transparency](#) (Guardian, link)

Also: [Five Reasons the MI6 Story is a Lie](#) (Craig Murray, link): *"The Sunday Times has a story claiming that Snowden's revelations have caused danger to MI6 and disrupted their operations. Here are five reasons it is a lie."*

14. EU: Council of the European Union: Data Protection Regulation: [Data Protection: Council agrees on a general approach](#) (Press release, pdf) and [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data \(General Data Protection Regulation\) - Preparation of a general approach](#) (201 pages, 11 June, pdf):

*"All changes made to the original Commission proposal are **underlined**; where text has been deleted, this is indicated by (...). Where existing text has been moved, this text is indicated in **italics**.... The **comments of delegations** on the text of the Regulation.... are reflected in the Outcome of proceedings of the meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee on 9 June 2015 (9788/15)." [emphasis added]*

Council document: [9788-15](#) (pdf) with 649 Member States' positions still on 9 June.

The previous: Consolidated version of the Council's negotiating position as at 5 June 2015: [Proposal for a Regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data \(General Data Protection Regulation\)](#) (LIMITE doc no 9657-15, pdf) With 268 pages and still 646 Member States' positions.

European Parliament: [Data protection: Parliament's negotiators welcome Council negotiating brief](#) (Press release, pdf) and [EP negotiating position set out in the Annex to this report](#) (pdf)

EDRI and PI: [Privacy and Data Protection under threat from EU Council agreement](#) (pdf)

15. EU: Council of the European Union: Connected Continent: Council Presidency "compromise": [Proposal for a Regulation laying down measures concerning the European single market for electronic communications and to achieve a Connected Continent, and amending Directives 2002/20/EC, 2002/21/EC and 2002/22/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 1211/2009 and \(EU\) No 531/2012 - Examination of the Presidency compromise text concerning open internet and amending Regulation \(EU\) No 531/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union](#) (LIMITE doc no 9931-15, pdf): "Compared to doc. 9167/15 additions are marked with bold and deletions are marked with strikethrough."

16. UK: [The Police Are Scanning the Faces of Every Single Person at Download FESTIVALS 2015](#) (noisy, link)

*"This weekend's Download Festival will be subjected to strategic facial recognition technology by Leicestershire Police, making those 100,000 plus attendees the **first music fans to ever be monitored to this extent at a UK music festival, according to UK police news and information website Police Oracle..... The announcement article on Police Oracle reads, "the strategically placed cameras will scan faces at the Download Festival site in Donington before comparing it with a database of custody images from across Europe."*** [emphasis added]. See:

[Cops turn Download Festival into an ORWELLIAN SPY PARADISE - Face recog tech, RFID tracking – gotta love Donington Park](#) (The Register, link) and [UK: Police exploit law to collect 18 million facial images](#) (Statewatch database)

17. EU: Justice and Home Affairs Council, 15-16 June, Luxembourg:

- [Agenda](#) (includes legislative and non-legislative items plus Mixed Committee, pdf)
- ["A" Points agenda](#) (adopted without debate, pdf)
- [Background Note](#) (pdf)

18. UK: MINERS STRIKE 1984-1985: ORGREAVE: Despite finding evidence of assault, police withholding evidence and committing perjury the IPPC (Independent Police Complaints Commission) decides not to investigate any further: [IPPC Decision](#) (pdf) and [IPPC Review](#) (pdf)

See: [Orgreave: Truth and Justice Campaign](#) (link): *"Whilst disappointed, OTJC members are not surprised that the IPCC will not be conducting a full investigation into policing at Orgreave on 18 June 1984. It was back in November 2012 that South Yorkshire Police referred itself to the IPCC, which ever since has acted slowly and conducted little independent work in assembling and collating information. The fact that **the IPCC, described – rightly in our view – by many prominent individuals as 'not fit for purpose'**, is stepping aside on Orgreave affairs will not therefore be deterring the OTJC from continuing its campaign."* [emphasis added]

See the excellent video: [The Battle for Orgreave](#) (YouTube, link, viewed 67,204 times): *"The miners' strike 1984 was one of the longest and most brutal in British labour history. A community fighting for jobs and survival was wholly denigrated and depicted as violent by the majority of the media. THE BATTLE FOR ORGREAVE puts the record straight, as miners recount their own history.."*

[Orgreave: What they wouldn't say in public](#) (Morning Star, link): "As early as 1991 ministers were privately admitting that there may have been problems with the policing during the most infamous incident of the miners' strike"

[IPCC will not investigate Orgreave police action during miners' strike - Watchdog says 1984 events too long ago despite evidence that officers assaulted miners, perverted the course of justice and committed perjury](#) (Guardian, link): "In a report to be published on Friday, the IPCC says that the force's withholding of evidence about improper treatment of miners and perjury by officers, and its failure to investigate it, "raises doubts about the ethical standards of senior officers at South Yorkshire police at that time" and suggests they were complicit. However, after two and a half years' research into evidence relating to the bitter Orgreave confrontation and prosecutions which followed, the IPCC has decided not to investigate further."

19. UK: UNDERCOVER POLICE: [Prosecutors improperly withheld crucial evidence from trial of protesters - Police and prosecutors are facing claims that they have systematically - and unfairly - concealed the operations of undercover officers from the trials of protesters](#) (Guardian, link). And: [IPPC report on Mark Kennedy and collapsed trials - 2012](#) (pdf)

See also: [Drax protesters' undercover police case convictions quashed](#) (Statewatch database) and [2014 Judgment - full-text](#), pdf)

20. UK: SURVEILLANCE POWERS: Report from the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation: [Statement by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism legislation on publication of the Investigatory Powers Review \('A Question of Trust'\)](#) (Press release, pdf) and [Full-report](#) (382 pages, 2MB reduced pdf version) and Section on the law in other ["Five-Eyes states"](#) (pdf)

For full list of documents and annexes see: [IRTL site](#) (link)

See also: [UK Investigatory Powers Review: A New Blueprint for Surveillance?](#) (Just Security, link): "privacy campaigners may be unhappy with Anderson's endorsement of the contention that the law should seek to minimize the (virtual) areas where individuals' actions are beyond the reach of investigation."

And [UK intelligence agencies should keep mass surveillance powers, report says - Report by official reviewer of counter-terrorism laws also says power to issue interception warrants should be transferred from ministers to judges](#)" (Guardian, link)

21. EU: European Commission: [Commission Implementing Decision: Annual Work Programme for 2015 for support to Union Actions under the Internal Security Fund – Police cooperation and crime prevention](#) (pdf):

*"Call for proposals restricted to EU Member States aiming at improving law enforcement information exchange by interconnecting Passenger Information Units (PIUs) to facilitate the exchange of PNR data... **The ambition is to embed PNR into a wider context of law enforcement information exchange and include European Information Exchange Model (EIXM) related topics given the uneven development of relevant initiatives among EU Member States and the need to share experiences between EU Member States with Member States that are most advanced in the lead... These action grants will be awarded through a call for proposals restricted to the EU Member States**" (see pp9-10) [emphasis added]*

See: [Travel surveillance: PNR by the back door](#) (Statewatch database)

22. BELGIUM: [The Constitutional Court repeals the transposition of the data retention directive](#) (nurpa, link) [The Constitutional Court annulled the law on the retention of communication data] "two actions for annulment brought independently, the Constitutional Court today ruled against the widespread retention of communication metadata. This decision is in line with a recent ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) invalidating the directive behind Belgian law".

And see: [Judgment](#) (French, link)

23. EU: European Parliament Study: [Privacy and Data Protection Implications of the Civil Use of Drones](#) (pdf):

"At the request of the LIBE Committee, this research addresses the implications of the integration of drones for civilian use into the European civil aviation system. It notably looks into the EU policy on drones and the potential impacts on citizens' right to privacy and data protection, as well as on security and safety. The research concludes that a series of important pre-conditions still need to be addressed and met in order to ensure that drones do not pose serious risks for citizens' fundamental rights to privacy and data protection, to security and to safety."

See also: Statewatch Report: [Eurodrones Inc](#)

24. UK: [Indefinite detention is wrong, says watchdog](#) (IMB, link):

"In its 2014 Annual Report, published today after election purdah, the Independent Monitoring Board at Yarl's Wood draws attention to the harmful effects of lengthy, indefinite periods of detention and calls for reform.

68 women were detained at Yarl's Wood for more than six months in 2014, and one woman was detained for 800 days, before being released. The IMB recommends a time limit on detention, such as the six months laid down in the 2008 European Returns Directive"

See: Full-text of [Report](#) (pdf)

25. EU: Statewatch Analysis: [UK: The new government's assault on civil liberties](#) (pdf) by Chris Jones:

"On Thursday 8 May the UK election saw the Conservative Party return to power. With no formal coalition (they previously governed with the Liberal Democrats), they now have more leeway to try to advance an agenda that, if successful, will be deeply damaging to civil liberties and human rights. This article provides an overview of the government's intentions.

The major civil liberties issues included in the Conservative programme include new digital surveillance powers for the security agencies, known more commonly in the UK as the 'Snooper's Charter' proposals; yet more anti-terrorism and counter-radicalisation laws; the abolition of the Human Rights Act and its replacement with a 'British Bill of Rights'; further restrictions on immigration and migrants; and new restrictions on the right to strike."

26. EU: Council of the European Union: [EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator: Follow-up to the statement of the Members of the European Council of 12 February 2015 on counter-terrorism: Report on implementation of measures](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9422-25, pdf): Includes:

*"Deepening of **cooperation of Member States' security services**: At the initiative of the Latvian Presidency, Member States' security services informed COREPER on 16 April 2015 about their **cooperation, which takes place outside EU structures...."***

*The "**Club of Venice**" (informal network of Member States communications directors) will have a meeting in Vienna in June 2015 focusing on communication challenges related to preventing radicalisation, an exchange of views on Member States' communication strategies and activities. Attention will be paid to the use of new media instruments (effectiveness, affordability, outreach, monitoring)...."*

On Libya, a second Political Framework for a Crisis Approach (PFCA) was provided and discussed by the Foreign Affairs Council in April 2015. Counter-terrorism aspects were part of the PFCA. Building

on the PFCAs and further developments, a CT strategy for Libya will be prepared **as soon as conditions on the ground allow...**" [emphasis added]

See also: On the EU and political situation in Libya: [Interim Strategic Review of EUBAM Libya](#) (LIMITE doc no: 7886, pdf): "The previous Strategic Review of EUBAM Libya, undertaken in May 2014, had highlighted the **importance (and fragility) of a political transition and stable security situation as essential prerequisites** to underpin the viability of the mission. These **two key assumptions have not been met**, although it should be noted that many elements of the previous review, in particular the decision to focus on operational activities through pilot projects in Libya, might still be applicable in the event that a sustainable political and security transition does eventually occur."

And: Regarding: "enhanced checks of the relevant databases and Member State capacity to do so, the Commission had issued informal recommendations" [Foreign Fighters: Application of the Schengen Border Code – Follow-up](#) (LIMITE doc no: 16880-14, pdf)

27. CoE: [Counter terrorism and human rights protection](#) (Commissioner for Human Rights, link):

"Forfeiting human rights in the fight against terrorism is a grave mistake and an ineffective measure that may help the cause of the terrorists. Policies which are human rights compliant preserve the values the terrorists are trying to destroy, weaken support for radicalism among potential adherents, and strengthen public confidence in the rule of law."

See: [Positions on counter-terrorism and human rights protection](#) (pdf)

28. CoE: DEMOCRATIC OVERSIGHT of SECURITY SERVICES: [Reinforcing democratic oversight of security services cannot be further delayed](#) (Press release, pdf) and Report: [Democratic and effective oversight of national security services](#) (78 pages, pdf):

"This issue paper addresses the question of what is required to make national oversight systems more effective in helping to promote human rights compliance and accountability in the work of security services.

This issue paper focuses on the oversight of state bodies, including both autonomous agencies and departments/units of other government departments or the armed forces, that have a mandate to collect, analyse and disseminate intelligence within the borders of their state in order to inform decisions by policy makers, military commanders, police investigators and border/customs agencies

29. EU-USA: European Parliament Study: [The US legal system on data protection in the field of law enforcement. Safeguards, rights and remedies for EU citizens](#) (pdf) Key findings include:

"With the exception of FISA electronic surveillance orders, **the data protection guarantees afforded to non-US persons are minimal**. The stated intent of PPD-28 [Presidential Policy Directive 28] is to provide for stronger personal data protection for non-US persons, but it is difficult to come to any conclusions at this point in time on what effect it will have...

As David Kris puts it, **PPD-28 could either be a "new paradigm of transparency, privacy, and internationalism in US intelligence" or a "collection of fairly modest changes, largely cosmetic in nature, that were designed to placate critics in the United States and abroad....**

..... Another question raised by this overview is the lack of legal limits in US law on the **sharing of personal data between intelligence and law enforcement officials**..... the law confers broad authority to transfer personal data collected through intelligence methods to law enforcement agencies, regardless of the type of criminal offense that is suspected.... **Unlike EU law, US law does not contain a general prohibition on transfers of personal data to jurisdictions without adequate data protection guarantees....**

there are at least **two important mechanisms that can be used in the bilateral agreements under negotiation to improve the rights of EU citizens....** The first is **carefully drafted purpose, use, and sharing provisions that limit personal data processing to certain types of crimes...**The second type of guarantee is **oversight and redress mechanisms for EU citizens that can operate in conjunction with those currently in place under US law....**

Although internal oversight bodies like Inspectors General and agency privacy offices **lack the independence of European DPAs**, they are tasked with enforcing civil liberties and have the capacity to administer ombudsman-like complaints systems for those who allege that their privacy rights have been violated. Ensuring that such an ombudsman process exists in all significant law enforcement agencies, expressly acknowledging a right to participate for EU citizens, and allowing European DPAs to intervene on the behalf of EU citizens would improve significantly legal oversight of privacy rights." [emphasis added]

See also: [Executive Summary](#) (EASFJ, link)

30. EU-USA: EU-US Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting: [Riga statement on enhancing transatlantic cooperation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security](#) (pdf) Including:

"Conclude the review of the Safe Harbor Framework and negotiations of the "Umbrella" Agreement concerning law enforcement transfers of personal information between the European Union and the United States, in order to ensure effective protection of such information when transferred across the Atlantic...

Enhance bilateral information sharing between the EU Member States and the U.S. Terrorist Screening Centre... Promote dialogue on voluntary and forced return and readmission, in accordance with the international protection standards including cooperation with third countries."

EU_NSA-GCHQ



GCHQ-JTRIG: [Spies Hacked Computers Thanks to Sweeping Secret Warrants, Aggressively Stretching U.K. Law](#) (Intercept, link) and [Controversial GCHQ Unit Engaged in Domestic Law Enforcement, Online Propaganda, Psychology Research](#) (Intercept, link) also: [Popular Security Software Came Under Relentless NSA and GCHQ Attacks](#) (Intercept, link)

Key documents: [TOP SECRET: Behavioural Science Support for JTRIG's \(Joint Threat Research and Intelligence Group's\) Effects and Online HUMINT Operations](#) (42 pages, pdf) and [Key section from document: interference by JTRIG/GCHQ](#) (1 page, pdf) including: "discredit", "delay", "disrupt", "promote distrust" and "deter" and "take over control of online websites (to deny, disrupt, discredit or delay)" and [GCHQ Stakeholders](#) (pdf)



UK: [Court says GCHQ spied on human rights NGOs, acted unlawfully](#) (PI, link):

"Monday, June 22, 2015: The Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) today revealed that the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) spied on two international human rights organisations, failed to follow ITS own secret procedures and acted unlawfully.

The targeted NGOs are the South African Legal Resources Centre (LRC) and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR). Both are leading civil liberties organisations and co-claimants alongside Privacy International in a legal challenge brought against GCHQ in the wake of the Edward Snowden revelations."

See: [Full-text of IPT ruling](#) (pdf)



[Privacy Advocates Walk Out in Protest Over U.S. Facial Recognition Code of Conduct](#) (The Intercept, link):

"Technology industry lobbyists have so thoroughly hijacked the Commerce Department process for developing a voluntary code of conduct for the use of facial recognition technology that nine privacy advocates involved withdrew in protest on Monday.

"At a base minimum, people should be able to walk down a public street without fear that companies they've never heard of are tracking their every movement — and identifying them by name — using facial recognition technology," the privacy advocates wrote in a [joint statement](#). "Unfortunately, we have been unable to obtain agreement even with that basic, specific premise."



UK-USA: [America curbs state snooping, Britain gives the green light - As the US Congress passes a Freedom Act, the grip of the UK's securocrats on ministers is clearer than ever](#) (Guardian, link):

"The US Congress passed a Freedom Act this week, partially curbing its power to harvest bulk data on the lives of America's citizens.... Meanwhile Britain's government moves relentlessly in the opposite direction. It wants to revive the "snooper's charter" bill, which failed in the last parliament. Among other things, this would give police and secret services more surveillance powers and, David Cameron hopes, ban server encryption that could impede surveillance."



USA-NSA: **US Freedom Act passed but surveillance of "foreigners" continues:**

*"It leaves untouched formerly secret programs the NSA says are authorized under section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act, and that while ostensibly targeted at foreigners nonetheless collect vast amounts of American communications. **It won't in any way limit the agency's mass surveillance of non-American communications.**" ([The Intercept](#), link) [emphasis, added]*

See also: Previous coverage: [The Intercept](#), link): *"Congress is doing **nothing to limit NSA programs ostensibly targeted at foreigners** that nonetheless collect vast amounts of American communications, **nor to limit the agency's mass surveillance of non-American communications.** **The limited reforms in the new bill affect only the one program explicitly aimed at Americans.**" [emphasis added]*

See: [US Freedom Act 2015](#) (pdf)

[Congress passes NSA surveillance reform in vindication for Snowden - Bulk collection of Americans' phone records to end as US Senate passes USA Freedom Act](#) (Guardian, link): *"The US Senate on Tuesday passed a bill to end the bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records, ushering in the country's most significant surveillance reform since 1978 two years after NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden's revelations... The American Civil Liberties Union praised the passage of the USA Freedom Act as "a milestone" but pointed out that there were many more "intrusive and overbroad" surveillance powers yet untouched."*

[Congress turns away from post-9/11 law, retooling U.S. surveillance powers](#) (Washington Post, link): *"Congress on Tuesday rejected some of the sweeping intelligence-gathering powers it granted national security officials after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, with the Senate voting to end the government's bulk collection of private telephone records and to reform other surveillance policies. The bill, known as the USA Freedom Act, passed on a 67-to-32 vote, against the will of Senate Republican leaders who wished to preserve existing spy programs."* and [Questions and answers about newly approved USA Freedom Act](#) (Washington Post, link)



UK-USA: [Secret report urges treaty forcing US web firms' cooperation in data sharing - Exclusive: UK privacy campaigners say international treaty could provide legal alternative to government's 'snooper's charter' proposals](#) (Guardian, link)

"A top secret report to the British prime minister has recommended that a new international treaty be negotiated to force the cooperation of the big US internet companies in sharing customers' personal data, the Guardian has learned."

This is a recognition that new powers under [Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act](#) (DRIPA 2014) to serve warrants (under Extra-territoriality in Part 1 of RIPA) on CSPs outside the UK is unworkable, especially in the USA.



USA: [Senate takes up House bill but fails to avoid spying lapse](#) (Washington Post, link):

"Eight days after blocking it, Senate Republicans have agreed to begin debate on a House bill that would overhaul the National Security Agency's handling of American calling records while preserving other domestic surveillance provisions. But that remarkable turnabout didn't happen soon enough to prevent the laws governing the programs from expiring at midnight Sunday as Republican Sen. Rand Paul, a presidential contender, stood in the way of extending the program, angering his GOP colleagues and frustrating intelligence and law enforcement officials."

Now, the question is whether the Senate will pass a bill the House can live with. If so, the surveillance programs will resume, with some significant changes in how the phone records are handled. If not, they will remain dormant."

And: [Senate Lets NSA Spy Program Lapse, at Least for Now](#) (New York Times, link) and [For the First Time Since 9/11, Congress Checks the Security State](#) (The Intercept, link)



SNOWDEN: UK-EU-USA: MASS SURVEILLANCE: Report from PI and Amnesty International: [Two Years After Snowden: Protecting human rights in an age of mass surveillance](#) (pdf):

"This briefing, published on the two-year anniversary of the publication of the first Snowden revelations, warns that governments are looking to maintain and expand mass surveillance, despite the practice being condemned as a human rights violation by courts, parliaments and human rights bodies. It comes on the heels of the adoption of the USA Freedom Act by the US Congress, a solitary and limited example of legislative rollback of surveillance powers since Edward Snowden's revelations began."

See also: [Edward Snowden: The World Says No to Surveillance](#) (New York Times, link) by Edward Snowden:

"For the first time since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, we see the outline of a politics that turns away from reaction and fear in favor of resilience and reason. With each court victory, with every change in the law, we demonstrate facts are more convincing than fear. As a society, we rediscover that the value of a right is not in what it hides, but in what it protects."