

European Union Panel Invites Edward Snowden to Testify



Brussels, January 10 (RHC)-- A draft investigative report presented to the European Parliament legislative committee charged with investigating the scope and scale of surveillance by the U.S. National Security Agency and the British GCHQ states that the activities of the controversial spy agencies were "illegal" and have "profoundly shaken" the trust between nations on both sides of the Atlantic.

The preliminary version, obtained by the Guardian, shows that the final report by the Justice and Civil Liberties Committee will not likely be friendly towards the U.S. and U.K. governments and the findings seem to further bolster the idea that the NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden was justified in being troubled by the nature of the various surveillance programs he leaked to journalists.

As the Guardian reports, the 51-page draft report, was prepared for the committee by Claude Moraes, the rapporteur asked to assess the impact of revelations made Snowden, and includes numerous findings as

well as recommendations to the EU legislative body.

Though the Moraes report has not been voted on yet and has "no legal force," the Guardian describes it as adding to "the growing body of criticism and outrage at the perceived intelligence abuses" by the NSA and GCHQ.

German EU parliament member Jan Philipp Albrecht expressed doubt at the possibility of Snowden, who currently has temporary asylum in Moscow, giving evidence in the NSA investigation.

Snowden would be worried about the video link pointing US authorities - who are currently seeking his arrest - to his undisclosed location, Albrecht told the news agency AFP, adding that it would be "very unlikely" that Snowden testify.

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