

## On illegitimate surveillance of EU citizens

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Rome, Italy on 11 December 2021:

### Notes:

- the evidence from the international scandal on the illegitimate use of the surveillance software 'Pegasus' created by the NSO Group confirmed that governments worldwide spied on investigative journalists, businessmen, lawyers, and public figures with a spyware tool intended for intelligence services;
- the investigation revealed that among others, Mexican, Moroccan, and even Hungarian journalists were targets of secret surveillance in recent years. In Hungary, investigators found traces of the Pegasus software on the phones of journalists, students, businessmen, opposition politicians – over 300 people. The common feature of the targeted citizens is their critical stance of the Orbán government.

### Believes:

- the fight against terrorism and organised crime ensures the security of our societies. This, however, shall never cast a shadow on the freedom of media, the freedom of speech and never shall legitimise the mass surveillance of civilians without due process and for political purposes. It is unacceptable that an EU member state uses secret service weapons to intimidate critics and suppress dissent.

### Calls for:

- the ALDE Party and its members to condemn the misuse of surveillance tools to target public figures, businessmen and journalists without due process and for political purposes;
- the European Commission to promptly investigate whether or not any member state has disregarded its obligations under the Treaties and the Charter, including the GDPR and Law Enforcement Directive;
- the EU to create legal remedy to provide assistance for civilians who have been surveilled without necessary legal and national security justification;
- the blacklisting of the NSO Group and its corporate offices in the EU, following the United States decision to do so;
- preventing comparable actions in the future by enshrining the right to encryption and a ban on darkware using software exploits on a European level.

### Resolution:

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### Year and Council:

Rome. Italy and online, 2021

### Category:

Urgency Resolution

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