

The President

Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Vice-President
SPINELLI 04F358

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Brussels, 16 August 2022

Dear Mr Papadimoulis,
dear Dimitrios,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 1 August 2022 concerning the attempt to hack the mobile phone of MEP Androulakis.

As I outlined in an earlier letter to you, I am very much concerned about the illegal surveillance of journalists, politicians and other citizens. Such infringements of the principles and values which form the basis of our democratic system cannot be tolerated, irrespective of whether they occur in Greece or another Member State.

I am proud that it was Parliament's cybersecurity experts who, after my initiative in April this year to ensure the integrity of Member's mobile phones, detected the Predator malware. I have informed Mr Androulakis that Parliament is ready to fully cooperate with the Greek authorities and make available the information gathered in the course of the investigation. Parliament has received a first request for information from a Greek authority which will be provided in the coming days.

At the same time, I welcome that - besides the ongoing investigations of the competent national authorities - the Greek Parliament is also looking into the latest revelations.

Concerning the follow-up in Parliament, I will ask Vice-President Kaili and Vice-President Charanzova (respectively Chair and Vice-Chair of the Bureau Working Group on ICT Innovation Strategy) to organise in September a presentation by DG ITEC of the relevant actions carried out so far to ensure the adequate protection and assistance to Members of Parliament against spyware use.

Moreover, I intend to inform the Conference of Presidents in its next meeting about the latest developments and measures taken by Parliament. The Conference of Presidents will also need to decide whether or not the matter will be debated in plenary.

I am convinced that the work of the Parliament's Committee of inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware will contribute to the overall efforts to bring to an end the illegal practices you are referring to, which reports indicate are widespread.

Please rest assured that I will also continue doing the utmost to ensure that Members of Parliament can continue to carry out their duties free from any kind of interference.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, slanted lines that form a stylized, illegible name.

Roberta Metsola