

Open letter to Commissioner-designate for Trade, Cecilia Malmström

September 30, 2014

Dear Commissioner,

During your hearing in the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament, you were asked on four occasions to comment on the document acquired by Access shedding light on DG Home's relationship with the US administration during the Data Protection Reform.

You have systematically refused to comment on "these allegations" from "a leaked email". The [document in question](#), referenced as "JN 656", is neither an allegation nor a leak. It was legally acquired by Access on July 14, 2014 through a freedom of information request made on February, 20 2013 to the US Department of Commerce.

When MEP Franziska Keller clarified the origin of the document while asking for further information on the matter, you did provide comments regarding your work on data protection. You then claimed to "have always defended" the data protection reform proposed by former Commissioner Reding before rejecting "allegations" that you did otherwise, concluding that these "were definitely not founded".

The clear implication of your statement is that the email in question is not genuine. We therefore demand an immediate clarification: Are you accusing Access or the US Department of Commerce of having falsified a document?

The content of the document gives cause for concern, we therefore request your urgent feedback on the claims you placed on its validity.

Sincerely,

Raegan MacDonald

European Policy Manager
Access