

# Freedom Not Fear

Brussels - 14, 15, 16 and 17  
September 2012

Press release #3

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## That was „Freedom Not Fear 2012“

The 4-day "Freedom Not Fear 2012" event came to a successful end today (Monday 17th September). Organisations and individuals from 11 EU-member states participated to raise their voice for better privacy safeguards, to protest against emerging surveillance measures and to exchange views on data protection and digital rights.

The Brussels action was accompanied by protest events in the [US](#), [Argentina](#), [Luxembourg](#) and [Australia](#).

"The idea of 'Freedom Not Fear' is to give citizens and civil rights groups time and a place for networking in order to strengthen their engagement and personal efforts", says Michael Ebeling, part of the organizing team. "We are glad that we are moving forward with this, bringing people from different countries together."

The weekend started on Friday afternoon with a discussion about the consultations of the EU Commission about a European notice-and-takedown system of content on the Internet. Mr. Werner Stengg, Head of the EC Unit on "Online Services" presented the Commission's point of view on this sensitive topic. The talk was followed by two hours of discussions with Mr. Peter Hustinx, European Data Protection Supervisor, about the upcoming EU Data Protection Reform. He started with a detailed explanation of his interpretation of the Freedom Not Fear motto: "Fear is always a bad adviser." He emphasized to keep on striving for positive developments on privacy issues. Mentioning the whole range of various kinds of activism from single person engagement over citizens' initiatives up to professional privacy activism: "Keep on going - we need you!"

Three more days of the barcamp-like conference filled with [meetings, lectures and discussions](#) followed also including a colorful [demonstration within the city of Brussels](#) and one more outside action named the "[Camspotting Game](#)". One of the results of Freedom Not Fear was the establishment of the International Working Group on Video Surveillance, which announced a campaign targeting the latest developments in privacy-intrusive technology such as "Facewatch" in the UK.



Walk of protest „Freedom Not Fear 2012“

For more information, visit the [multi-language press information site](#).

**Freedom Not Fear 2012:**

<http://freedom-not-fear.eu>

**Freedom Not Fear introduction:**

<http://wiki.vorratsdatenspeicherung.de/images/FNF12-Intro-en.pdf>