

## Freedom Not Fear

**Brussels – 14, 15, 16 and 17  
September 2012**

This is the second year in a row that the activist movement « Freedom not Fear » is organising a weekend in Brussels with talks, protests, workshops and networking.



**<http://freedomnotfear.org>** (Website for the international event)

**<http://freedom-not-fear.eu>** (Wiki for the Brussels event)

### What is Freedom Not Fear ?

Freedom not fear is an activist movement and a coalition of NGOs, collectives and citizens which meets in many different places once per year in September in order to defend a free and open society against the ever increasing number of restrictions of our fundamental rights. This movement organises an international activist weekend for protests, discussions and reflection with the aim to put an end to the culture of fear.

European legislation influences our daily lives more and more and some of them have a direct impact on the way we communicate, access information or take part in civic life. In 2011, several hundred people from Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Austria and the UK participated in the first Brussels edition. Around fifty participated in the following day of meetings with European policy makers in the European Parliament and the Commission.

The main goal of this weekend of information, activities and reflection, to which all citizens are invited, is to create a dynamic and to support knowledge sharing on topics such as the defense of fundamental rights in the digital era or the increase of surveillance measures, for example retention or CCTV surveillance (see page 3 for a detailed description of our topics). The incredible pan-European mobilisation against ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) has shown that civil society can have a decisive impact on draft legislations that threaten civil liberties.

### Programme

14 - 17 September 2012

14/09: Arrivals

15/09 -16/09: Protest, CCTV spotting/mapping, talks and workshops

17/09: Meetings with MEPs and Commission officials (self-organized)

Location: Mundo B ([www.mundo-b.org](http://www.mundo-b.org))

## There are many ways to get involved

- ▶ Support the event and add your organisation to the list of official « supporters » (see [here](#) the list of supporters from last year, amongst them the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme Belgique, l'Association Européenne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme or NOCCTV)
  - ▶ Spread the information (on your website, social networks, blogs, newsletter, etc.).
  - ▶ Organise a workshop or a talk on an issue linked to our topics, on Saturday 15/09 or Sunday 16/09.
  - ▶ Take part in the activities or listen to the talks.
- ▶▶▶ If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us:  
[info@freedom-not-fear.eu](mailto:info@freedom-not-fear.eu)



„Walk of Protest“, Freedom not fear 2011, 17/09/11- cc by AK Vorrat

## **Our demands**

### **1. Cutbacks on surveillance measures**

- abolition of the blanket logging of our communication and locations (data retention)
- abolition of the blanket collection of our biometric data as well as RFID passports
- protection from surveillance at the workplace by introducing effective labour data protection laws
- no permanent student ID numbers
- no handing over of personal information without cause; no European wide standardized state run collection of information (Stockholm Program)
- no information exchange with the US or any other state lacking effective data protection laws
- abolition of permanent CCTV surveillance and ban of all behavioral detection techniques
- no blanket registration of passengers traveling with airlines, trains, busses or by boat (PNR data)
- no secret searches of private computer systems, neither online nor offline
- no centralised storage of personal healthcare data or forwarding of any such information to the USA or other nations
- no systematic surveillance of financial transactions data or similar mass data analysis in the EU (SWIFT)
- no automated registration of vehicle number plates and locations

### **2. Evaluation of existing surveillance powers**

We call for an independent review of all existing surveillance powers as to their effectiveness, proportionality, costs, harmful side-effects and alternative solutions.

We particularly call on the European parliament to immediately re-evaluate existing and planned projects on interior security that restrict fundamental rights of the people in Europe.

### **3. Moratorium on new surveillance powers**

Following the “arms race” in security measures over the past few years, we demand an immediate stop to new interior security laws that further restrict civil liberties.

#### **4. Ensure freedom of expression, dialogue and information on the Internet**

- safeguard net neutrality with binding laws
- keep the Internet free, unfiltered and uncensored, without blocking lists or pre-publication controls, neither by state institutions nor by Internet service providers
- no Internet disconnection policies ("three strikes", "graduated response")
- outlaw installation of filtering infrastructures on ISP networks
- content deletion must require an order by an independent and impartial judge, the right to legal recourse must be ensured
- establish a digital Human Rights Charter for the 21st century, with global protections of digital civil rights
- introduction of an unlimited right to quote multimedia content, which nowadays is indispensable for public debate in democracies
- protection of internet platforms for preserving the free expression of opinion (participatory websites, forums, comments on blogs etc.), which nowadays is threatened by inadequate laws encouraging self-censorship (chilling effect)

#### **5. Preservation of human rights**

We urge every government, every parliament and every court to keep human rights as the highest legally protected interest, to align all acts and decisions to this principle, and not to abandon this for any other cause.