To: Facebook Inc

4 Grand Canal Square

Dublin 2 Dublin

Ireland

Facebook Inc

1 Hacker Way

Menlo Park, California, CA 94025

**United States** 

Subject: Companies using Facebook data from Facebook users for their own databases, which they make available to law enforcement agencies in The Netherlands for information gathering.

Dear Madame/Sir,

On 20 April 2017 I have send this same letter to the following e-mail address, press@fb.com. I did not receive any response so therefor I will e-mail this letter today again and will also send a physical copy.

On 2 May 2017 I have send you this same e-mail again to the following e-mail address, press@fb.com and to two physical addresses in Ireland and the US. On the 3th and 5<sup>th</sup> of May I received a notice from Maarten Spaans which represents Facebook NL | De Issuemakers. I was informed that I my questions would be answered after the holiday. I did not receive any response so I assume that Facebook gives the named companies and other access to their users data for surveillance purposes. We will publish our findings in the coming weeks and assume that your company is not willing to answer my questions.

At the moment we are investigating several Dutch companies that are providing social media data to Dutch law enforcement agencies. In regard to this matter, including their use of Facebook data for these purposes, we have several questions for you.

- 1. Is Facebook aware of the fact that companies are downloading (crawling) Facebook data for their own purposes?
- 2. Does Facebook allow companies to collect data from Dutch citizens and probably other nationalities in order for the companies to store the data in their own databases? If so, under which regulations or laws are the agreements between Facebook and these companies made?
- 3. Is Facebook aware that these companies make these databases available to their customers, who pay for this access/data?
- 4. These companies also make their databases available to law enforcement agencies for social media monitoring/surveillance purposes. Is Facebook aware of that? What kind of agreements

between Facebook and data collection companies regulate the companies' making that data available to law enforcement agencies?

- 5. Are users in the Netherlands and other countries informed by Facebook about the fact that their data might be collected by Dutch companies for other purposes than the initial intention of the Facebook users? How are privacy, copyright and general surveillance issues dealt with between Facebook and these companies concerning the data from Facebook users?
- 6. Do these companies that collect Facebook data have a contract with Facebook? At the moment we are investigating several companies among which Coosto/Wiseguys Internet, Buzzcapture and Obi4wan. Are these companies known to Facebook? Does Facebook publish a full list of Dutch companies which have Facebook's permission to collect data from its users?
- 7. Some companies gather the information which Facebook users make available to everyone. They do not gather information which users of Facebook only share with friends. We are also investigating companies' practices of bypassing the privacy settings of Facebook users. The "protected" information of these users becomes available through other Facebook users. Are you aware of these practices? Are there agreements with these companies about this data which Facebook users would only like to share with specific other users?
- 8. Another line of investigation is the use of shadow accounts by these companies to obtain access to users, groups and specific circles within Facebook. Are there agreements with these companies about this data which Facebook users would only like to share with specific other users?

Yours sincerely

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