

EU Security Proposals Are 'Dangerously Authoritarian'

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The European Union is stepping up efforts to build an enhanced pan-European system of security and surveillance which critics have described as "dangerously authoritarian". ... Jacques Barrot, the European justice and security commissioner, yesterday publicly declared that the aim was to "develop a domestic security strategy for the EU", once regarded as a strictly national "home affairs" area of policy. "National frontiers should no longer restrict our activities," he said. Mark Francois, Conservative spokesman on Europe, has demanded "immediate clarity on where the [British] government stands on this". - UK Telegraph



Dominant Social Theme: A firm hand is necessary now and more-so in the future.

Free-Market Analysis: We have written often of the power of the Internet, but it is certainly true that a weapon such as this cuts both ways. It is clear that technology can be utilized to spread knowledge and freedom or it can be used for purposes that may be seen as oppressive. Even as the Internet educates people about money, investing and free-market economics, there are those that would use it for surveillance and to restrict information. Yet, the plans seem fairly heavy handed and we wonder how, given the pushback the EU is currently facing, they will ever be implemented.

Civil liberties groups say the proposals would create an EU ID card register, internet surveillance systems, satellite surveillance, automated exit-entry border systems operated by machines reading biometrics and risk profiling systems. Europe's justice ministers will hold talks on the "domestic security policy" and surveillance network proposals, known in Brussels circles as the "Stockholm programme", on July 15 with the aim of finishing work on the EU's first ever internal security policy by the end of 2009.

This is an ambitious program, as we have noted. We have also noticed that numerous efforts at further centralization of governance and regionalization of finance are moving very quickly these days. It took 50 years to set up the EU as a fully realized trade pact. But in the past decade, we have sent attempts to graft onto it a comprehensive constitution, a military, taxing authority, etc. What's the hurry? Even the language of the bureaucracy has grown more aggressive and determined. What immediately leaps out at us in the excerpt above is the sentiment that "national frontiers should no longer restrict [EU] activities." Apparently, while the monetary elite expects to perch in Brussels (see other article) the surveillance state will spread from nation to nation.

Conclusion: We don't foresee that any of this will be neat or easy. Sure, there are those who wish to take advantage of the Internet for purposes of buttressing the current paper-money system, but it is the knowledge itself that the Internet has disseminated that is the problem. A full generation has been re-educated as to the reality of money and economics. And we speak of millions, even tens of millions - and not just in America or Britain but around the world. The 20th century saw a good deal of elite media control. But the knowledge of the American colonies, of the Renaissance and Greek Republic has been replenished by the 'Net. It will take decades to drain.