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Event | 26.01.2021 | 16:00 - 17:30

Face surveillance vs Facial Authentication: What is it and why should biometric mass surveillance be banned in the public space?

Live Webinar - Register here!

Often when people think of facial recognition, they think about unlocking their phones with their face. Facial authentication is used to verify that someone is who they say they are, when for example gaining secured access to a building or traveling through a passport gate. This is a one-to-one comparison.

Facial recognition, on the other hand, is used to identify a person in crowds, on the streets or in pictures, so you can see who someone is. This means a face can be matched with a huge database of faces to determine who you are, even without your consent. This is a one-to-many comparison.

Now, why exactly is opening your phone with your face less risky than facial recognition in the public space? And what are the specific risks that facial recognition entails?

In this event, we will discuss with experts how both techniques are different - both in how they work and in the degree of consent provided. Together with international experts. we will address the different risks, from bias and discrimination, serious privacy concerns, mass surveillance to rule of law.

Not only is the entire principle of biometric surveillance an enormous breach of our right to privacy, because it happens without our consent and has a chilling effect on society. Is a society in which people are automatically judged and classified based on their appearances or behaviour desirable? We do not think so. That is why the Greens/EFA Group is calling for a ban of biometric mass surveillance technologies

This event will discuss the dangers of using facial recognition technologies in the public space with experts and NGO's, bring these issues to the attention of the broader public and see what would be the best way forward.

Speakers

- **Lotte Houwing:** Policy advisor and researcher at Bits of Freedom. She focuses primarily on the relationship between the state and its citizens and the power relations that accompany it.
- **Irina Orssich** Team leader for AI Policy in AI Policy Development and Coordination, European Commission.
- **Dr. Nakeema Stefflbauer** Founder and CEO of the German non-profit organization, FrauenLoop, Dr. Stefflbauer'swork focuses on the impact of artificial intelligence adoption on marginalized

communities.

- **Simon Ilse** Director, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Office Belgrade - Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo. Mr Ilse will present the current situation in Serbia, where biometric mass surveillance in public is already a lived reality.
- **Deborah Raji** Fellow at Mozilla and representative of the Algorithmic Justice League (AJL), AJL shows through a combination of art and research, what the impacts are of forms of bias in Artificial Intelligence.

Draft Programme

- **16:00** Opening by MEP **Tineke Strik**
- **16:10-16:20** Statement on current situation in Belgrade
- **16:20-16:50** Panel discussion on differences between FR and FA and EU law-making, moderated by MEP **Kim van Sparrentak**
- **16:50-17:00** Response of European Commission
- **17:00-17:15** Q&A moderated by MEP **Kim van Sparrentak**
- **17:15-17:20** Closing remark by MEP **Patrick Breyer**

Recommended

Press release

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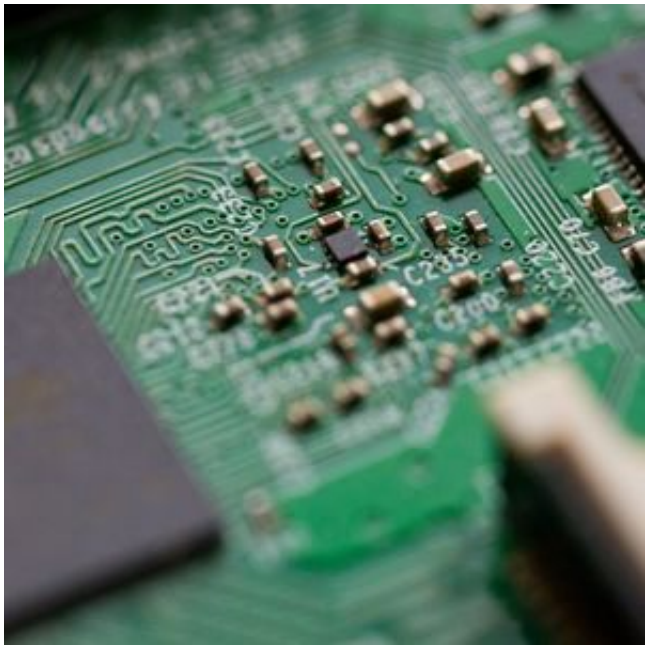

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Responsible MEPs



Patrick Breyer

Member



Tineke Strik

Member



Kim Van Sparrentak

Vice-President

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