

Mr Mathias Cormann  
OECD Secretary- General  
Château la Muette  
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Dear Mr Cormann

London | Cambridge | Oxford | Singapore

## CRS | The Big Hack is coming

12 May 2024

I write further to my [letter](#) dated 19 April 2024, as well as my [correspondence with your predecessor, the former Director of the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration and his Deputy](#).

### 1. **Europol hacked**

[Der Spiegel](#) reported today that data stolen from a Europol site are now available for sale on the dark web.

### 2. **Long list of data security concerns**

You will recall that as part of our data protection complaint under the OECD rules back in [April 2020](#), we submitted a long list of hacking and data breaches. That list is now almost 200 pages long.

At the time we also [raised concerns](#) about the involvement of a firm that works closely [with the NSA](#) to develop the IT-system maintained by the OECD to transfer CRS data across the globe. Concerns had also been [raised](#) by the EU's data protection working group.

Accordingly, we asked your predecessor for written confirmation that the OECD had obtained assurances from member states that they had not kept a backdoor or Trojan horse into the system.

Not only did your predecessor not provide that confirmation; he also [stated](#) that *"the OECD is **not accountable** for the personal data of individual taxpayers transmitted through the CRS and thus is not obliged to comply with the OECD data protection rules in relation to such data"*.

### 3. **Huge Hack waiting to happen**

According to the OECD's [Global Forum on Transparency](#) *"in 2022 information on over 123 million financial accounts, covering total assets of almost EUR 12 trillion was exchanged automatically"*.

While we were unable to get the OECD to accept that they owe taxpayers a duty of care, we will continue to raise awareness over the disproportionate and unnecessary data security risks faced by millions of compliant taxpayers at the hands of the OECD.

Best regards,

**Filippo Nosedà**  
Partner

## POLITICO

### Serious security breach hits EU police agency

Disappearance of sensitive files of top law enforcement officials has sparked a crisis at Europol.

MARCH 27, 2024



The personnel files were those of Europol's Executive Director De Bolle and three of her deputy directors. | Olivier Hoslet/EFE

They were supposed to be under lock and key, in a secure storage room deep inside Europol's headquarters in The Hague.

But a clutch of highly sensitive files containing the personal information of top law enforcement executives went missing last summer.

Europe's law enforcement agency has been mired in a whodunit ever since.