



Athens, 26 July 2022

Subject: Illegal use of malicious spyware Predator in Greece

Dear Madam President,

Today I visited the General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court in Athens, Greece, in order to ask him to initiate an investigation on the attempt to hack my personal mobile phone using the malicious spyware “Predator”.

On the 28th of June, I asked ITEC services to check my personal mobile device with the Pegasus detection mechanism resulting in a “critical detection”. Following that and according to the CERT-EP security protocol a forensic analysis was made, using an image of my iPhone as well as a crash/syndiagnose dump.

Following those analysis and according to the report I received from the competent services of the European Parliament a few days ago, there has been clearly a tentative of infection of my device through an SMS. This contained a malicious link expected to be followed by the recipient to initiate infection with Predator malware.

It seems that finally my phone was not infected, only because I rarely follow unknown links.

Nevertheless, there was a clear attempt to hack my phone. In addition, from what I am aware, this is the first case where the relevant services of the European Parliament detect a clear attempt to hack an MEP’s phone.

Even if it is a failed one, it is a very worrying sign for the state of our democracy. It is unacceptable that citizens and politicians are unprotected from illegal spywares like Pegasus and Predator.

Unfortunately, it is not the first incident. A Greek journalist was hacked by the same spyware that they tried to use against me with a similar URL. The fact that the attempt coincides with the internal leadership elections of my party in Greece, where I was



elected President, makes it even more crucial and worrying about the state of our democracy

Whoever is trying to undermine our democracy should be brought to justice and pay the price. No one, no matter how powerful or high placed might be should be above the law. It is unacceptable that this kind of malicious spywares are used to hack and spy on citizens, activists, journalists and politician. We have to protect our democracy. In these efforts I strongly believe that the European Parliament with the service to control MEPs phones and the Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware has a very important role to play.

My office and myself we remain at your disposal for any supplementary information you might need.

Sincerely,
Nikos Androulakis