



United States Department of State

*Under Secretary for Economic Growth,
Energy, and the Environment*

Washington, D.C. 20520-7512

January 9, 2017

Federal Councillor
Johann N. Schneider-Ammann
Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research
Bundeshaus Ost
3003 Bern
Switzerland

Dear Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann:

I am pleased we reached an understanding on the Swiss-U.S. Privacy Shield, which includes an Ombudsperson Mechanism through which the Swiss Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (“FDPIC”) may transmit requests on behalf of Swiss individuals regarding U.S. signals intelligence practices.

On January 17, 2014, President Barack Obama announced important intelligence reforms included in Presidential Policy Directive 28 (PPD-28). Under PPD-28, Secretary of State Kerry designated me, the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment, as the Department’s Senior Coordinator for International Information Technology Diplomacy to serve as a point of contact for foreign governments that wish to raise concerns regarding U.S. signals intelligence activities. Building on this role, I was designated to serve as the Ombudsperson in the context of the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Framework Ombudsperson Mechanism. The Ombudsperson Mechanism is now being extended to the Swiss-U.S. Privacy Shield Framework, in accordance with the terms set out in Annex A thereof. I am independent from the U.S. intelligence community and report directly to the Secretary of State. I am confident the Ombudsperson Mechanism will be an effective means to address Swiss individuals’ concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine A. Novelli".

Catherine A. Novelli