

EU officials: We were hacked at Web conference

November 10 2012, by Raphael Satter

A European official says her staff members were hacked when they joined her for a conference on Internet security in Azerbaijan.

[European Commission](#) Vice President Neelie Kroes said in a blog post Saturday that her advisers' computers were compromised as they attended a meeting of the [Internet Governance Forum](#) in Baku, the Azeri capital.

Her spokesman, Ryan Heath, said the attack occurred while they were in their hotel.

Heath said he and a colleague got messages from Apple Inc. warning them that their computers had been accessed by an unauthorized party, something he said he believed was an attempt to spy on him.

"I'm presuming it was some kind of surveillance," he said in a telephone interview. "What we're going to do is to get the computers forensically analyzed to see what if anything was taken out of them."

He declined to say who he thought might be responsible.

Kroes was critical of her hosts when speaking before the forum on Wednesday, attacking the Azeri government for allegedly spying on activists through the Internet and "violating the privacy of journalists and their sources."

In her blog post Saturday, Kroes cited the hacking as one of several violations which she said highlighted the "harsh" reality of political life in Azerbaijan, an oil-rich nation on the shores of the [Caspian Sea](#).

Kroes said that Azeri authorities reneged on a deal to allow her to see political prisoners, and she claimed that [activists](#) at the Internet conference were harassed.

"So much for [openness](#)," she wrote.

More information: Neelie Kroes' blog post: [blogs.ec.europa.eu/neelie-kroe ... -day-power-internet/](https://blogs.ec.europa.eu/neelie-kroe...-day-power-internet/)

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Citation: EU officials: We were hacked at Web conference (2012, November 10) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-11-eu-hacked-web-conference.html>

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