

No place for Palantir in a democratic Europe!

We are European organisations demanding that our governments and the European Commission scrap all existing public sector contracts with the US tech company Palantir Technologies and permanently end our states' links to this firm.

Links to far-right projects and oppression

Palantir is a US tech company that makes tools and software that are widely used by governments for [surveillance](#) and [AI warfare](#).

In the US, Palantir has supplied data mining tools to ICE which uses them to track migrants and trawl through information including [social media](#) posts, [location](#) history and [health data](#).

Its software has also been used in predictive policing in [Los Angeles](#) and [New Orleans](#), a policing practice which [automates and deepens](#) the impact of existing institutional biases.

Palantir's tools are used by [the Israeli military](#) and its CEO has [expressed pride](#) in the company's support for Israel, even as the state faces [genocide proceedings](#) at the International Court of Justice.

Its record should disqualify it from involvement in the operations and functioning of democratic governments. Yet it has been handed public sector contracts throughout Europe, ranging from [healthcare](#) to [military and policing](#).

Corporate capture of the public sector

European democracies have suffered decades of corporate capture, with private interests increasingly entrenched at the heart of governments. But we believe Palantir's advance into our public institutions poses particular risks to civil rights and democracy.

One issue is the technologies themselves, which are designed to rapidly [process and analyse](#) information, facilitating [increased surveillance](#) and amplifying the repressive powers of the state. The incorporation of such freedom-threatening technologies into the state, achieved with little debate or transparency, is a threat to vulnerable groups and popular movements.

Further, dependence on the company reinforces the strength of – and makes us increasingly dependent on – a class of tech billionaires whose influence and control over public life is already unprecedented. Meanwhile, as the company eats up lucrative public contracts funded by taxpayers, it has also exploited loopholes to pay [extremely low rates](#) of tax in some European countries. Palantir is a drain on public wealth.

Dangerous dependence

Europe's increasing dependence on a single company for key services is also a threat to national and popular sovereignty. Palantir's [access](#) to sensitive data, its entrenchment across different parts of the state and the risk of [vendor lock-in](#) exposes public services and national infrastructure to substantial financial and political risk.

It also ties the state to a company it is impossible to trust. Members of Palantir's billionaire leadership have made statements that run counter to ideas of popular power, equality and democracy.

For example, its co-founder and chair Peter Thiel once wrote that he [considered](#) votes for women detrimental to his vision of American capitalism, and that he no longer believed "freedom and democracy are compatible".

The company's proximity to Trump's American nationalist administration makes dependence unwise, not least because the president has shown such willingness to [weaponise](#) US economic and trade relationships. This includes dozens of cases in which Trump's administration has [pressed](#) governments to give up democratically mandated policies to regulate the digital space.

One former Nato adviser has argued that Palantir should be considered a "[vector of malign influence](#)" and warned that embedding Palantir into sensitive systems is "risky". This is not an ambiguous criticism.

Waking up to the threat

Some countries are waking up to the threats posed by Palantir. Switzerland has [rejected](#) Palantir bids at least nine times, while Spain has [banned](#) its state companies from taking on new Palantir contracts. Other countries including the [Netherlands and Denmark](#) are seeking to prevent or end reliance on the firm.

But despite popular pressure, Palantir continues to win new contracts throughout Europe. And European finance is also deepening its stake in Palantir. Over the course of 2025, more than 100 of the continent's largest banks, asset managers, insurers and pension funds [expanded](#) their combined holdings in the company by nearly 70 percent compared to the year before. By the end of 2025, those shares were worth at least \$27 billion.

Beyond Palantir

Palantir's growing foothold in the public sector across Europe is a symptom of a democratic crisis. Governments are responding to popular discontent at the cost of living and defunded services by doubling down on private sector solutions and dubious 'technofixes', while also expanding the use of surveillance and militarised repression.

We call for an urgent change of direction. This means revitalising our democratic structures and institutions, and urgent action to ensure public control and strict

regulation of technologies that are already further concentrating power in the hands of a dangerous class of tech billionaires and strengthening authoritarians.

Governments should instead work with companies and workers in the tech industry to develop open-source software as a first priority for data solutions. Our countries and popular movements within them should jointly develop and share technologies with those seeking to steer against the global wave of far-right authoritarianism and the corporations that enable it.

We say Palantir out of our public services!

Demands

European governments and public institutions should:

- Terminate contracts with Palantir Technologies and permanently ban the company from future public contracts
- Develop alternative data solutions compatible with public service – and put in place transparent mechanisms for safeguarding people from mass surveillance
- Protect democracy and guard against the rise of the far right by investing in and democratising public institutions, providing good jobs and services
- Work to build international coalitions against corporate capture by companies like Palantir, building and sharing alternative technological developments
- Europe's public finance institutions must divest from Palantir

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Sign-ons by 16 September 2026:

127 organisations from 30 countries

Europe-wide/international

Article 19 Europe

Balanced Economy Project

Coalition for Women in Journalism

Corporate Europe Observatory

Corpwatch (US)

Counter Balance

Debt for Climate

Defend Democracy

Digital Action

Ekō

Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice

European ATTAC Network
European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine
European Digital Rights (EDRi)
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)
European Trade Union Confederation
European Trade Union Network for Justice in Palestine
Friends of the Earth Europe
Indivisible Abroad
International Trade Union Confederation
Newsmast Foundation
People vs Big Tech
Public Services International
The Good Lobby
Transform! Europe
Transparency International EU
Transnational Institute
Union Syndicale Fédérale
WeMove Europe

Albania

Trade Union Federation of Defence Civil Workers of Albania

Armenia

Health Workers Union of Armenia
Union of State, Local Government and Public Service Employees of Armenia

Austria

ATTAC Austria
Initiative for Internet Freedom
Social Democratic Fraction in the Public Service Union (FSG-GÖD)
Younion: The Public Services Union

Belgium

ACV Puls
Association of Employees, Technicians and Managers (SETCa-BBTK)
Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (ACV-CSC)
FairFin
General Labour Federation of Belgium (FGTB-ABVV)
General Union of Public Services (ACOD-CGSP)
KAIROS EUROPE/ Wallonie-Bruxelles
Union Syndicale Fédérale

Bulgaria

National Federation of Commerce, Services, Customs and Tourism - Podkrepa CL

Croatia

Politiscope

Trade Union of Education, Media and Culture of Croatia (SOMK)

Cyprus

Cyprus Workers' Confederation

Czechia

Trade Union of the Health Service and Social Care of the Czech Republic

Denmark

IT-Pol

Finland

Attac Finland

Friends of the Earth Finland

Sumud - the Finnish Palestine Network

France

ATTAC France

Data for Good

Federation of Health and Social Services CFDT

Feminists Against Cyberbullying

Interco Federation CFDT

La Quadrature du Net

National Federation of Mines and Energy CGT

Sciences Citoyennes

Germany

ATTAC Germany

Digitale Gesellschaft

German Association for Data Protection (DVD)

Ver.di – United Services Union

Greece

Homo Digitalis

Naturefriends Greece

Hungary

ATTAC Hungary

Democratic Union of Nursery Workers (BDDSZ)

Federation of Trade Unions in the Electric Energy Industry (EVDSZ)

Ireland

Energy Services Union of Ireland

Fórsa

Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation

Uplift

Italy

ATTAC Italy

Funzione Pubblica CGIL

Osservatorio Nessuno OdV

Privacy Network

The Good Lobby Italy

Transform! Italia

Latvia

Latvian Health and Social Care Workers' Trade Union

Lithuania

Lithuanian Industry Trade Union Federation

Luxembourg

Independent Luxembourg Trade Union Confederation

Netherlands

Bits of Freedom

Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)

Federation of Dutch Trade Unions (FNV)

Norway

ATTAC Norway

Electricians and IT Workers' Union

Electronic Frontier Norway

Norwegian Civil Service Union

Norwegian Nurses Organisation

Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees
Palestine Committee of Norway
Tech Action Group

Portugal

Health, Solidarity and Social Security Workers' Union

Romania

Centre for Policies, Initiatives and Research 'Platforma'
COLUMNNA-SCOR Federation

Slovakia

Slovak Gas Trade Union

Slovenia

Danes Je Nov Dan
Trade Union of Professional Firefighters of Slovenia

Spain

ATTAC Spain
Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions (USO)
CCOO Federation of Health and Socio-Sanitary Sectors
UGT Public Services
Xnet, Institute for Democratic Culture in the Digital Era

Sweden

Kommunal, Swedish Municipal Workers' Union
Swedish Association of Health Professionals
Swedish Union of Civil Servants
Swedish Union of Professionals
Vision trade union

Switzerland

BreakFree Suisse
Digitale Gesellschaft CH

Turkey

Road Construction and Building Workers' Union of Turkey (YOL-İŞ)

United Kingdom

Another Europe is Possible

Campaign Against Arms Trade
Corporate Watch
Global Justice Now
Good Law Project
GM Watch
International Centre of Justice for Palestinians
Just Treatment
New School of the Anthropocene
Stop Trump Coalition
Tax Justice UK
Trade Justice Movement
Unison - the public service union