

Dear Journalistforbundet,

I would hereby like to send my recommendation for a nomination for the Cavling Prisen, all the way from the Netherlands. Since my Danish is not optimal, my recommendation is written in English. I hope that is alright with you.

To tell you something about myself: I am Maaïke Goslinga and I work as the International Editor at a Dutch outlet De Correspondent, a member-funded and ad-free journalism platform for independent voices.

In late 2014, I had an idea: What if we brought together Europe's best security journalists to take stock of the EU security industry? I approached journalists throughout the EU and assembled a 21-person team, including **two talented journalists from the Danish outlet Dagbladet Information: Sebastian Gjerding and Lasse Skou Andersen**. The full consortium can be found [here](#).

Gjerding and Andersen became our closest allies within the consortium, as they turned out to be highly skilled and knowledgeable persons with whom we could exchange information swiftly and securely. Together we turned our gaze to the exports of spyware from EU countries to troubling places. Many security devices aren't ordinary products, because their use often conflicts with a number of civil rights.

Our investigation, called **Security for Sale**, looked at the many European countries that peddle their wares to regimes that have a disturbingly casual attitude toward these rights, such as Egypt, Libya, Syria, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. These companies profit from the lack of strict European export controls. Actors in several countries lobby heavily to prevent such controls.

Since February 2017, Gjerding and Andersen have been publishing many articles on how European spyware falls into the wrong hands, in Danish and other languages. Through the series '[Overvågning: Made in Denmark](#)' they have showed the Danish public how companies do dodgy business and where policy fails:

- Information: '[Telegigant sælger mobilovervågning til diktaturstater](#)'
- Information: '[Danmark tillod salg af teknologi, der kan overvåge en hel befolkning, til et af verdens mest undertrykkende regimer: Saudi-Arabien](#)'
- Information: '[Danmark gav regimerne i Algeriet og Marokko lov til at købe overvågningsteknologi](#)'
- Information: '[Tunesiske sikkerhedsfolk: Dansk overvågningsteknologi hjalp os til at forfølge politiske modstandere](#)'
- Our joint English publication in Information: '[Europe's exports of spy tech to authoritarian countries revealed](#)'
- Our joint investigation in Dutch in De Correspondent: '[Hoe onze spionagetechnologie in verkeerde handen valt](#)'
- A joint English publication with BBC: '[How BAE sold cyber-surveillance tools to Arab states](#)'

For more stories, please visit the theme page of Overvågning (URL above) or [securityforsale.eu](#), the official homepage of the consortium.

In my eyes, Gjerding and Andersen deserve the Cavling Prisen for several reasons:

- Gjerding and Andersen keep a close eye on this dossier, **establishing themselves as the most knowledgeable journalists in Denmark, if not Europe, when it comes to surveillance exports** and showing an insatiable appetite for exploring this contentious issue.
- Their articles have been **picked up by national and European politicians alike**.
- The cross-border aspect of their work is astounding. Gjerding and Andersen have published in Denmark but also outside of it, with partners **De Correspondent (Netherlands), DIE ZEIT/ZEIT ONLINE (Germany), Il Fatto Quotidiano (Italy), Svenska Dagbladet (Sweden), Knack (Belgium), Longplay (Finland)**. The story was picked up by many outlets outside of the consortium too. Gjerding and Andersen also conducted a year-long investigation with **BBC**.
- The stories coming out from this investigation have appeared in **different formats**: text, documentary, social media-proof videos, infographics, portraits, analyses, etcetera.
- Our investigation wasn't informed by a leak or whistle-blower. We simply **pooled our knowledge and formulated our own research questions and topics**. We are still cooperating, which shows the power of working across borders.
- And lastly, kudos to **Dagbladet Information, which allowed two investigative reporters to really bite their teeth into this topic for a longer period of time**. In a time where media spend fewer resources on investigative journalism, this is praiseworthy.

I hope this recommendation is sufficient and that you will take it into consideration. Could you please let me know whether the application has been successful? I would love to attend the ceremony if they end up being nominated.

Hilsen fra Holland,

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Maike Goslinga
 International Editor | De Correspondent

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