



FEDERAL PARLIAMENT OF BELGIUM

Conference of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the EU Brussels, 4 – 5 April 2011

**Topic: Role of the parliaments in the oversight of the European
Area of Freedom, Security and Justice**

Subtopic 1: Parliamentary oversight of intelligence and security services

This agenda item concerns the implementation of the Brussels Declaration (annexed) and the establishment of a knowledge centre concerning parliamentary oversight of the intelligence services. This centre will consist of a database (website) with a public part and a part only accessible to the oversight committees concerned.

The process of setting up this centre will be as follows:

- cost estimate and discussion on financing;
- development of an offline system by the Belgian Oversight Authority in co-operation with the oversight authorities of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania and Sweden;
- creation of a working group to assess this offline system;
- creation of an online operational database with the participation of all member states of the European Union.

During the Speakers Conference, a first offline version of the website will be presented by the Speaker of the Senate and a financial plan will be proposed. The said working group may meet at the eve of the Speakers Conference.

The debate during the Speakers Conference aims at getting support from all Speakers for this system and coming to an agreement concerning the proposed financing scheme.

**6th Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for the
Oversight of Intelligence and Security Services
of the European Union Member States**

Brussels

September 30 – October 1 2010

Declaration of Brussels

Participants of the Conference of the Parliamentary Committees for the Oversight of Intelligence and Security Services of the European Member States having met at their 6th conference, held on 30th September and 1st October 2010, in Brussels, and

Considering the strategic importance of the intelligence and security services for the security of the democratic constitutional state;

Considering the importance of parliamentary oversight of intelligence and security activities in order to assure the respect of the fundamental rights and liberties and the efficiency of the intelligence and security services;

Considering that intelligence work is increasingly an international activity and that oversight of intelligence and security services have to take this reality into account;

Considering the experience obtained in the meetings that were held in Rome, Bucharest, Lisbon, Tallinn and Brussels;

Declare the following:

- a) We recognise the need and the utility of more intensive exchange of information between the parliamentary oversight bodies of the EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway;
- b) We note the proposal to create a European Intelligence Review Agencies Knowledge Network (EIRAN), implemented through a website with the primary goal of improving democratic oversight of the functioning of the intelligence and security services. And although the various oversight bodies invariably strive for increased professionalism in the performance of their roles, we have come to believe that this knowledge network will represent an added value for all;
- c) We are convinced that EIRAN must focus on the exchange of information and expertise among the different members, on a completely voluntary basis. This initiative could not serve as an instrument for defending collective interests, nor initiate joint investigations or the exchange of operational or classified information;
- d) We are ready to support this proposal and are prepared to collaborate on its further development over the next few months.
- e) We hereby appoint a limited working group consisting of (...) to draw up a proposal that will be supported by all representatives in time for the next conference.
- f) We choose (...) as the host country for 2011.