



BELGIAN SENATE

**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.